

Hafa Adai!

NMI files tax lien vs owner of defunct Dynasty. **PAGE 2**
AG not asking for TRO in lawsuit against pay hike. **PAGE 3**

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Bishop Ryan asks for calm, prayers

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez urged the community yesterday to remain calm and asked for prayers in the wake of a sexual abuse lawsuit filed by a Guam resident against then-priest and now bishop emeritus Tomas A. Camacho of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa.



Camacho

Melvin Duenas, through lawyer David J. Lujan, sued Camacho, retired priest Louis Brouillard, and several John Does Monday in the U.S. District Court of Guam. Duenas, now 55 years old and residing

in Yona, is seeking \$5 million in damages.

He is the 17th individual to come forward and file a lawsuit against a member of the

See BISHOP on Page 4

'CNMI healthcare in deep water from 2019'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The CNMI received about \$100 million in funding because of the Affordable Care Act, derided among Republicans as Obamacare.

Once that amount is depleted and the Affordable Care Act, or ACA, is repealed—as promised by the Republican Party—the CNMI will be left treading deep water, according to CNMI Medicaid director

Helen Sablan.

Donald J. Trump rose to become U.S. President on a campaign promise to repeal the ACA. Now that Trump is already in office, the first step to dismantle this legacy of the Obama administration, ACA, is just around the corner.

According to Sablan, the CNMI has been benefitting from additional funding provided by the ACA. The funding has been constantly used

See CNMI on Page 4

MEET-AND-GREET

DEMALYNN S. PAGARAO

Left, Miss Marianas Peachy Quitugua and Miss Teen Palanga Taimanao listen to the 13 *Pusong Pinoy* candidates at the meet-and-greet at the McDonald's restaurant in Gualo Rai last week. The United Filipino Organizations' 2017 Miss *Pusong Pinoy* pageant will be held on Feb. 25.

FOR FAILING TO PAY \$130K CUSTODIAL FEES Yamamoto directed to show cause

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A federal judge directed Japanese investor Takahisa Yamamoto yesterday to explain why he has not paid \$130,406 in custodial fees for cargo ship M/V *Luta*.

U.S. District Court for the CNMI designated judge Fran-

ces M. Tydingco-Gatewood

ordered Yamamoto to appear personally in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Feb. 21, 2017. Yamamoto's counsel, George Lloyd Hasselback, was also ordered to appear.

At that time, Yamamoto would be required to explain why he should not be held in contempt for disobeying a court order for him to pay his share in custodial fees.

According to the court, Ya-

mamoto's must pay an outstanding balance of \$130,406 in custodial fees for cargo ship M/V *Luta*.

If Yamamoto, however,

See YAMAMOTO on Page 4



INSIDE

BUSINESS

Sears and Kmart evict "a small number" of Trump items from their online stores.

PAGE 13

WORLD

Cocaine is probably the last thing most people think about when buying roses.

PAGE 16

PLAYBOY

LIFE & STYLE

Naked women are back in Playboy magazine, ending a year-old ban on the nudity.

PAGE 19



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Local

NMI files tax lien vs owner of defunct Dynasty

The owner of the now-defunct Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino allegedly owes the CNMI taxes amounting to \$10,477 for the 2016 tax period.

The CNMI Department of

Finance's Division of Revenue and Taxation filed last week a notice of tax lien under CNMI tax laws against Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investment Ltd. before the U.S.

District Court for the NMI.

According to Finance, taxes, including interest and penalties, have been assessed against HKE, but the demand for payment remains unpaid.

"Therefore there is a lien in favor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on all property and rights to property belonging to this taxpayer for the amount of

these taxes and any additional penalties, interest, and costs that may accrue," said Revenue and Taxation collection branch manager Richard Santos in the notice.

Santos said HKE owes employer's quarterly withholding tax return in the amount of \$10,264 and \$212 for tax period that ended on June 6, 2016.

Last month, the U.S. Internal Revenue Service also filed a notice of tax lien against HKE for allegedly owing em-

ployer's quarterly federal tax returns in the total amount of \$15,198 for tax period ending Sept. 30, 2016.

Last October, IRS also filed a notice of tax lien against HKE, saying it allegedly owes \$593,821 in taxes covering the 2015 to 2016 tax period.

According to court documents, HKE no longer has any employee working in the CNMI and that water and power to Tinian Dynasty has been shut off. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



CELEBRATING WITH THE MAN'AMKO

Margaret Cui Lijie, majority shareholder of Imperial Pacific International, Ltd., fourth from left, is flanked by first lady Dianne T. Torres, director of Office on Aging Walter Manglona, governor's special assistant for administration Shirley Ogomuro, Ana Tudela, and Corporate Social Responsibility executive director Geri Dela Cruz during yesterday's "Valentine's with the Man'Amko."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kennedy re-appointed as magistrate judge

Heather L. Kennedy has been re-appointed as part-time U.S. magistrate judge in the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, an appointment she has held since 2013, as the court's first magistrate judge.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona re-appointed Kennedy to a new four-year term commencing June 11, 2017, after an evaluation process including public comments and

review by a merit selection panel.

Kennedy also serves as clerk of court, administering the non-judicial operations of the court, in addition to performing her duties as magistrate judge.

Magistrate judges in federal courts are authorized to perform a range of judicial functions in criminal cases, including issuing arrest and search



Kennedy

See KENNEDY on Page 4






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AG not asking for TRO in lawsuit against pay hike

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Attorney General Edward Manibusan has clarified that he is not asking for a temporary restraining order in his lawsuit against Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson to stop her from paying the governor, lieutenant governor, and lawmakers the salary increases provided in Public Law 19-83.

Manibusan, through assistant attorney general Michael Witry, filed Friday a notice of errata to make a correction that will confirm the Superior Court's understanding that he is not asking for a TRO.

Witry said Manibusan is also not seeking an accelerated motion timeline in the lawsuit.

Witry made the clarification

after Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja issued an order on Friday directing Manibusan to clarify whether he is seeking an accelerated timeline on his motion or if he is seeking a TRO.

Naraja said that in his notice of motion, Manibusan stated he was moving under NMI Rules of Civil Procedure 65(b), titled "Temporary Restraining Order; notice; hearing; duration."

However, Naraja said, the AG's motion and supporting memorandum does not request a TRO.

The judge noted that there is significant overlap between NMI Rules of Civil Procedure 65(a), titled "Preliminary Injunction," and NMI Rules of Civil Procedure 65(b).

Currently, Naraja said, the

court is of the impression that Manibusan is not requesting a TRO and is not requesting an accelerated motion timeline.

Yet, Naraja said, out of an abundance of caution, he would like Manibusan to clarify his position.

Naraja also stated that the court anticipates that Larson will need a separate lawyer to represent her in the lawsuit.

The judge said the statute provides that the AG generally acts as counsel for "all departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the Commonwealth," subject to the availability of funds.

Naraja said the statute also provides that separate outside counsel may be retained.

In this case, Naraja said, it seems likely that Larson would

need separate legal counsel.

Naraja ordered that the parties indicate how they plan to proceed in light of the foregoing statutory provision.

In Manibusan's notice and response, Witry said in regards to Naraja's concern regarding legal representation, the OAG is cognizant of the conflict and

confirms that the Office of the Attorney General will not provide representation to Larson.

Manibusan's lawsuit alleges that Public Law 19-83, which provided the salary increases, is unconstitutional because the Advisory Commission that recommended the increase was not validly constituted,

and that such the increase recommended by the commission for the Legislature exceeded the change in an "accepted price index" since the last time the salary was adjusted.

Manibusan asked the court to issue preliminary and permanent injunctions to prevent Larson from implementing the law.

CUC board debating salary hikes

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board met yesterday to discuss salary adjustments of employees and payment of night differentials, seniority, overtime pay, and the severity of job hazards.

Board member Eric San Nicolas raised the issue that CUC's pay scale be reviewed because new employees are quickly catching up to the pay rate of several senior employees.

During deliberations, board members agreed that several other factors must be consid-

ered such as night differential, overtime pay, and job hazard.

"It is [human resource's job] to disaggregate pay scales and positions that deal with a hazardous environment, night differentials, and whatnot, and to cross-reference those things with the OSHA [Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970]," said San Nicolas to CUC human resources manager Andrew Orsini.

San Nicolas said that CUC's HR should have an idea of which positions warrant night differential pay, hazardous pay, etc., "before proposing recommendations to the board."

CUC board chair Adelina Roberto was hesitant to ask Fox Lawson about the salary adjustments, saying that posing a question to Fox Lawson might generate extra expenses for CUC.

"We have to be mindful and start dissecting it and figuring it out and go from there," she said.

Minnesota-based Fox Lawson & Associates did a salary study that compared CUC wages to other utilities companies of a similar size.

CUC management was given 30 days to come up more details about the salary adjustment proposal.

SCHOOL PRESENTATION

Sgt. A. J. Grant gives a presentation to 6th graders of Seventh Day Adventist school on Monday, Feb. 13, 2017.

DEMALYNN S. PAGARAO



MVA backs Susupe Lake tourist spot

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority supports a plan to create a new tourist attraction out of Susupe Lake and its environs.

MVA managing director Chris Concepcion said yesterday that MVA always supports the concept of enhancing the natural assets of the CNMI to elevate the visitor experience.

"We feel that opening up the Susupe Lake as a tourist site and recreation area might be a good idea," said Concepcion.

He said the unique experience that can be found in Susupe Lake is unique and is not easily replicated elsewhere.

Susupe Lake is the largest freshwater lake in the CNMI. It is a wetland area as well, providing haven to wild flora, and fauna.

According to Concepcion, with proper planning and coordination with the Department of Lands and Natural Resources and the Division of Parks and Recreation, Susupe Lake park may "turn into something we can all enjoy while ensuring the area remains protected."

"With wooden boardwalks,

scenic trails, interpretive signs and opportunities for limited water sports like kayaking, canoeing, paddle boating and other environmentally friendly activities, Susupe Lake can become an incredible attraction," said Concepcion.

Concepcion warned, however, that proper funding and personnel of Parks and Recreation remains a concern.

"We caution against moving forward with this proposal without proper funding and personnel for the [division] as they will have ultimate jurisdiction over the maintenance of the area," he said.

"The MVA provided \$50,000 to [Parks & Recreation]

for fuel and supplies in fiscal year 2017 and \$200,000 to the Mayor of Saipan as our contribution to their beautification and maintenance efforts, allowing us to continue to concentrate on furthering our mandate, which is to market and promote the CNMI to visitors from around the world," he added.

House Bill 20-13, authored by House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan), is currently being reviewed by the House Committee on Natural Resources, headed by Rep. Alice S. Igitol (R-Saipan).

It proposes to designate the Susupe Lake and its surrounding wetlands as a wildlife park.

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House committee seeks to address traffic situation

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

The House Committee on Transportation has been meeting with the Department of Public Works and Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority officials to solve the worsening traffic and parking situation in Garapan.

Traffic had been building up going to Garapan, with long lines of cars during rush hour while parking space had been limited, especially during dinner time and special occasions.

Rep. Donald C. Barcinas (R-Saipan), who chairs the committee, said he and members of his committee have already drafted two resolutions that they would introduce in the next session. He said they met last Jan. 26 and Feb. 9.

Garapan is under Precinct III

Barcinas said the renewed economic activity the island is experiencing contributes to the current situation that the Garapan business district is experiencing.

“Traffic and parking space is a growing problem in the Garapan business district. We can now see traffic congestion, especially during rush hours that’s why we are aggressively looking to solve the worsening situation,” said Barcinas.

He said DPW Secretary James Ada and COTA executive director Alfreda Camacho have presented their respective plans to help ease the traffic situation.

A public transportation system, which would be an alternative way of getting around the island, aims to ease traffic in the area. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said they are just waiting for the buses to arrive.

unless the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña requests us that they need the help of private clinics,” said Sablan.

In an earlier interview, Muña told *Saipan Tribune* that she is hopeful that the new administration recognizes the “disparity in Medicaid funds for the CNMI and the territories and ensure funds will be available for eligible indigent care.”

Muña said that repealing ACA would affect Medicaid supplemental funding and eliminate Public Health Prevention Funds that provides funding for immunization, home visits, epidemiology and laboratory funds, and some community health center funds.

“It means the services covered by this funding may stop unless the CNMI and CHCC can identify funds that replace them,” she said.

Muña added that limitation of Medicaid funds means there is less money to pay both public and private healthcare providers.

“While CHCC will not deny services, private providers can,” she said.

earned a JD from Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, Missouri. She received a BA degree from Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina. Prior to joining the federal court, Kennedy served the NMI Public School System and the NMI Judiciary. She worked for a large corporate firm in St. Louis, Missouri, and was an assistant public defender in Charlotte, North Carolina before relocating to Saipan in 1999. She was born in New York and raised in Connecticut. (PR)

YAMAMOTO

From Page 1

pays his outstanding balance, including any additional costs that have accrued since Friday, Feb. 10, Tydingco-Gatewood said she would order the release of M/V *Luta* and discharge the National Maritime Services as the vessel’s custodian.

However, if Yamamoto resists paying NMS, he may be found in contempt and result in the imposition of monetary and other sanctions.

NMS counsel Sean E. Frink told the court yesterday that Yamamoto has not made any payment toward his outstanding balance of \$130,406 in custodial fees. The court earlier set the deadline for Yamamoto to pay yesterday at 10am.

Frink said the vessel’s crew, Long Consulting, and Norton Lilly already paid on Monday their share in custodial fees in the total amount of \$28,916.

On Friday, Tydingco-Gatewood directed Yamamoto and the three intervenors to pay by yesterday, Tuesday, their share in custodial fees, now amounting to \$189,323.

Meanwhile, Tydingco-Gatewood issued a written order late Monday afternoon in which she determined that Yamamoto’s relationship with Abelina T. Mendiola

and her family demonstrates that he was a joint venturer with them on M/V *Luta*.

Abelina T. Mendiola is president of Luta Mermaid, and Luta Mermaid’s members are Deron T. Mendiola and Fidel S. Mendiola III.

Tydingco-Gatewood ruled that Yamamoto failed to show probable cause that he has a maritime lien on M/V *Luta*.

That is not to say that Yamamoto was not harmed by the Mendiolas and Luta Mermaid LLC and that he has no cause to complain about their conduct, or that he cannot prosecute them, the judge said.

Yamamoto’s arrest of M/V *Luta*, however, cannot stand, said Tydingco-Gatewood. She vacated the arrest of the vessel and quashed all warrants for the ship’s arrest.

She also vacated her Jan. 9, 2017, order for the sale of the vessel.

Tydingco-Gatewood said M/V *Luta* will remain in the custody of NMS until all its fees and costs are paid off.

From the beginning, Tydingco-Gatewood said, Yamamoto intended to be involved and was intimately involved in a joint business venture to buy a shipping vessel, with the prospect of making a profit for himself as a co-owner.

The judge noted that Yamamoto took an active part in the structuring of the business and exerted control beyond what a creditor would

exert in an arm’s length transaction.

Tydingco-Gatewood stated Friday that her tentative decision was going to be in favor of Luta Mermaid LLC and the Mendiolas pertaining to their motion to declare the maritime lien invalid.

Luta Mermaid LLC and the Mendiolas, through counsel William Fitzgerald, asserted that based on the evidence in the record, Yamamoto was never entitled to a maritime lien on M/V *Luta* as he is joint venturer with the Mendiolas.

Fitzgerald asked the court to invalidate the lien and vacate its order for the sale of M/V *Luta*.

Yamamoto is suing Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog and the owner/operators of M/V *Luta* for allegedly refusing to pay back the \$3.4 million that he put up for the vessel. After Yamamoto filed the lawsuit last Oct. 25, the U.S. Marshal Service seized the ship. NMS was appointed custodian of the vessel.

Last Jan. 9, Tydingco-Gatewood ordered the sale of M/V *Luta*.

In opposing the sale, defendants, through Fitzgerald, asserted that Yamamoto did not have a maritime lien because he is a joint venture and/or co-owner and not a stranger to the vessel.

By the end of January 2017, all intervenors had

settled their claims with defendants, no longer favored a sale, and released the vessel from their warrants.

At a hearing last Jan. 31, defendants requested a post-arrest hearing for Yamamoto to show probable cause why the vessel be kept under arrest.

The judge then conducted the post-arrest hearing last Friday.

In her written order on Monday, Tydingco-Gatewood said it is well settled that a joint venture/co-owner may not assert a valid maritime lien.

To determine whether a joint venture existed, the court “looks to the whole relationship” between the plaintiff and the owner.

Tydingco-Gatewood said e-mails exchanged between Yamamoto and various defendants substantiate this relationship.

Last Jan. 9, Tydingco-Gatewood ordered the sale of M/V *Luta* with a minimum bid of \$550,000. Tydingco-Gatewood approved the sale, citing its expensive upkeep and the delay in securing its release.

The judge, however, recently ordered that the sale be stayed for 60 days, pending the resolution of some issues.

Luta Mermaid and the Mendiolas have filed in court counterclaims for fraud and other claims against Yamamoto.

CNMI

From Page 1

since 2011. Since then, the \$100 million, which has been used to fund the medical treatment of patients that need off-island health care, is almost completely depleted.

“We already pretty much used up about \$75 million,” said Sablan.

She said the \$100 million ACA funding is divided annually based on expenses of the previous fiscal year. The ACA funding is set to last up to 2019. Sablan believes that the CNMI would start to feel the effects of not having additional ACA funds starting 2019 onwards.

“We are spending over \$18 million a year. With just the regular funds that we are getting, it would not be enough,” she said.

“We may have to limit opening up to the private clinics again,” she added.

The private clinics that accept Medicaid patients are Saipan Health Clinic, Pacific Medical Center, and Marianas Medical Center.

“In our state plan, [ACA] is just limited to the hospital

BISHOP

From Page 1

Archdiocese of Agana clergy. Walter Denton, Roy Quintanilla, Roland Sondia, and Leo Tudela—all former altar boys—were among the first to come forward and accuse former Guam archbishop Anthony Apuron and Brouillard of sex abuse. They filed the first batch of lawsuits, with Lujan also representing them.

Guam and the CNMI are both predominantly Catholic after being under Spanish rule for three centuries.

Jimenez, in a statement released yesterday, said he was saddened to learn of Duenas’ civil lawsuit against Camacho and is requesting prayers for the accuser, Camacho, and their respective families.

“I request your prayers for everyone affected by this news, those who have sought and continue to seek redress from abuses, the accused and their journey to realize due process, the families on each side that are struck with a heavy weight of pain that comes with each sharing, and everyone within our midst who are affected one way or another,” said Jimenez.

He said the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa would act consistently within the Catholic faith

and with justice and mercy.

“We have communicated with the Archdiocese of Agana where then-Fr. Camacho served as a priest at the time alleged in the lawsuit.”

“Our prayers go out to Mr. Duenas and his family. We also ask for prayers for bishop emeritus [Camacho] and his family. Since this is a matter in litigation, the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa can offer no further comment on this matter. We give our full cooperation with civil authorities.”

Jimenez, who became bishop of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa last year after being its apostolic administrator after Camacho resigned in 2010, said the diocese remains committed to protecting children and young people.

“The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, established by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, sets the norms for our diocese. We are working to maintain a safe church environment, especially through education and transparency,” said Jimenez.

“Three years ago, we started a series of trainings and workshops on child protection for all our church workers and volunteers. We will continue this training and formation for the clergy, Catholic schools

personnel, CCD instructors, diocesan staff, and others in positions of authority.”

He invited the community to attend a Holy Hour to be held in all parishes on Friday from 5pm to 6pm. “I invite everyone to reach a location of your choosing and to pray together. At this time, we turn to the Lord Jesus, who is the truth, for truly, our help is from the Lord.”

Organizations involved

Concerned Catholics of Guam president Dave Sablan said he was saddened to learn of the lawsuit against Camacho but suggested that they too could assist individuals in the CNMI, if ever there’s a victim of clergy abuse here.

“Originally [the CCOG] had a hotline where we kept the identities of the victims confidential. Now we refer them to proper authorities, either in the government or community organizations. We refer them for counseling or to seek legal assistance. We just give them whatever assistance they need,” Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* in a phone interview.

“That’s why last year, when the proliferation of alleged sexual abuses of clergymen came up, [CCOG] developed a seven-point plan that we gave to the Archdiocese

of Agana that we suggested through a memorandum of agreement and memorandum of understanding.”

He added that there are government agencies and community organizations in Guam that handle alleged sexual abuse cases, like the Office of the Attorney General, Office of the Public Defender, and other organizations that offer social services.

Sablan said that they also suggested to victims of alleged sexual abuse by priests to seek help from these organizations.

“There are community organizations who have professional people to help victims through counseling and referral to lawyers if they seek legal action. They discuss the situation and put the victim under their care and protection,” said Sablan.

He said that what also needs to be done in these types of cases is have an independent organization handling it.

“It keeps the situation objective. They get the information needed and see what can be done to help the victims. That, I think, is the best way to help the victims.”

“We still receive phone calls [in Guam] but most of the time the cases have become technical, that’s why we have been referring them to proper authorities.”

HANMI occupancy up 2 percent in January 2016

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported a 97.12-percent occupancy among 11 member hotels for January 2017, a 2-percent increase compared to January 2016.

Average room rates were \$174.44 during the month, compared to \$161.85 last January. This is a new record for HANMI average room rates, breaking the record of \$172.53 set in August 1997.

A total of 68,820 of 71,887 available room nights sold in January 2017, compared to 68,132 of 71,579 available room nights sold over the

same period last year.

"Since HANMI started tracking our membership average room rates in 1992, January 2017 is now a record high, another sign that tourism has recovered," said HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh. "To sustain the industry and its continued growth, however, we need to stabilize the labor force situation. This is most critical, particularly with hundreds of new hotel rooms opening in the Marianas in the year ahead."

"Second is improving the quality of our product. ... We believe in and are commit-

ted to improving our room product," added Cavanagh. "In order to do so, we must address the lease extension situation that our larger hotels are facing. To commit millions of dollars, especially after a decade of low tourism numbers, will take more than the less than five years that a couple of our members are facing. [Third] is resolving the immigration waiting period for arriving passengers at the airport. HANMI continues to work closely with members of the Strategic Economic Development Council to resolve these issues."

Say Hey! program to honor 2 ex-CNMI residents

By **DEMALYNN S. PAGARAO**
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REPORTER

Two CNMI residents will be joining 38 other professionals of color who will be recognized on Thursday, Feb. 16, 2017, as a Say Hey! honoree.

The Say Hey! series honors professionals of color who have recently relocated to Oregon or Southwest Washington and helps them connect with the region's community.

Lucia Blanco-Maratita and Jazmine Anastacio will be representing the CNMI at the event.

Blanco-Maratita, a former

Board of Education member, is originally from Tinian and moved to Oregon on July 2016 where she works in public service.

Anastacio went to school at Grace Christian Academy where she was involved in sports and moved to Oregon in August 2016 where she is a member of the Campus Compact of Oregon.

The quarterly Say Hey! event brings together business and public sector leaders, community organization representatives, and other individuals to help make honorees feel welcome and more immersed in their new community.

While Oregon is currently almost 84 percent white, the ethnic landscape of the United States and Oregon is shifting. As a result, future employees and stakeholders will likely demand that companies embrace diversity.

Say Hey! is a program under a nonprofit organization called Partners in Diversity. PiD operates as an affiliate of the Portland Business Alliance Charitable Institute that seeks to address employers' critical needs for achieving and empowering a workforce that reflects the rapidly changing demographics of the Pacific Northwest.

The Hotel Association of

Judge Manglona declines to recuse herself from handling Guanlao case

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Federal judge Ramona V. Manglona has declined attorney Stephen Woodruff's suggestion that she recuse herself from presiding over a lawsuit filed by his client.

In an order on Monday, Manglona, who is chief judge of U.S. District Court for the NMI, said that Woodruff was disbarred from practicing law in CNMI courts in 2013, yet four years later he is still permitted to practice in the U.S. District Court for the NMI, in which she (Manglona) is the only district judge.

Woodruff's client, Amalia Abo Guanlao, has challenged an order for her removal from the CNMI.

Manglona pointed out in the first seven months of Guanlao's case—before the U.S. government's motion to disqualify Guanlao's counsel, Woodruff—Guanlao did not object to having her case decided by Manglona.

The judge noted that Guanlao did not object last August when she heard the U.S. government's motion to dismiss, even though the court's decision could have ended her

the Northern Mariana Islands was established in 1985. For more information or to request

case unfavorably.

And yet, Manglona said, Guanlao did not suggest at that time that she recuse herself because of a personal bias against Woodruff that might express itself in a bad outcome for his client.

"With knowledge of all these facts, it is hard to see how a reasonable person would question the undersigned's partiality in this matter," said Manglona in her order.

Guanlao, a Filipino mother who has been in the CNMI for 23 years now, has two minor U.S. citizen children, but was deemed by U.S. Immigration to be removable from the CNMI.

Aside from then-U.S. Department of Homeland Secretary Jeh Johnson, Guanlao also sued several U.S. immigration officials.

Manglona has stayed Guanlao's removal while the court hears her petition.

Last Jan. 12, the respondents, through the U.S. Department of Justice, filed a motion to disqualify Woodruff, who has been disbarred from practice in CNMI courts. A disciplinary case against Woodruff is pending in the district court to determine

a membership application, visit www.saipanhotels.org. (**HANMI**)


whether to impose reciprocal discipline on Woodruff.

The respondents allege that Woodruff's CNMI disbarment became final months ago, when he failed to petition for certiorari to the U.S. Supreme Court. The respondents allege that Woodruff misrepresented the status of his CNMI case and failed to report the imposition of discipline in other jurisdictions, and that these failures make him unfit to continue representing Guanlao.

Manglona's husband, John A. Manglona, is a justice of the CNMI Supreme Court. John Manglona was one of the justices who temporarily suspended Woodruff while his CNMI disciplinary case was pending and subsequently denied Woodruff's appeal of the disbarment order.


Because the reciprocal discipline decision turns on whether the CNMI courts afforded Woodruff due process, Judge Manglona recused herself from the district court's reciprocal discipline case.

In her order on Monday, Manglona said the CNMI courts' conduct in disbaring Woodruff is not at issue in respondents' motion to disqualify Woodruff.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-17-016

FEASIBILITY STUDY OF WATER SUPPLY ALTERNATIVES FOR THE ISLAND OF SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities for professional services to prepare a comparative feasibility assessment of water supply treatment alternatives, including desalination (RO and thermal/evaporative). The assessment will compare, at a minimum, location, type, size, cost, and funding options for each alternative to implement, construct and operate.

The scope of work and solicitation package will be emailed upon request, by the CUC Procurement and Supply Office from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except on government observed holidays. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must register with the CUC Procurement and Supply Division.

A mandatory pre-proposal conference will be conducted at the CUC Conference Room No. 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building on **February 15, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)**. A teleconference number will be provided to interested off-island participants to call in and attend.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP-17-016 - Feasibility Study of Water Supply Alternatives for the Island of Saipan" to the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P. O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **March 02, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible Proposers who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competitive Proposers.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the offeror due to lack of information of understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award of a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws. This bid and the ensuring contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, which will become the obligation of the proponent, awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI business license in compliance with the licensing laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of the contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. Proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 17, 2017**, to Manuel B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to William Gilmore, CUC Deputy Executive Director via email address william.gilmore@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant, via email address at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM GILMORE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Development Authority

2nd Floor CDA Bldg., Oleai, Saipan
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245 Fax: (670) 235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

POSITION VACANCY: Economic Development Analyst, Excepted Service Position

ANNUAL SALARY: Ungraded \$50,000 - \$60,000

CLOSING DATE: To Be Announced

The objective of the position is to promote the Authority as the primary advocate or supporter by economic progress by working with both private and public sectors and developing good relations and communications with the local and international organization. The position is responsible for the day to day operation of the Qualifying Certificate (QC) Program as well as special projects required by CDA. Special projects may include but not limited to bond issues; entrepreneurial advancements; research and development; implementation of the new program; etc. This position is under the general supervision of the Executive Director.

GENERAL DUTIES

- Assists and entertains investor inquiries.
- Issues QC applications and investment packets and reviews business plans, impact statements, financial projections, contracts and other related documents.
- Supervises the work of the Business Development Specialist whose duties include compliance inspections of Beneficiaries or QC recipients and may perform the same.
- Examines various reports for validity and compliance with terms and conditions of the QC Program and reports on the same.
- Discusses findings of compliance inspections/monitoring or QC recipients, pointing out any discrepancies found and recommends methods of improvements to meet minimum standards of compliance.
- Develops, coordinates, and evaluates economic development programs.
- Formulates recommendations, policies, projects, or plans to stimulate economic growth in the CNMI.
- Promotes the image of the Authority as the primary advocate of business.
- Recommends any changes necessary to QC Rules and Regulations to improve the Program's effectiveness and efficiency.
- Undertakes special projects as assigned by the Executive Director and the Board of Directors and facilitates and coordinates special projects objectives.
- Attends and reports to the Board of Directors the activities of the department.
- Performs related work as assigned.

EDUCATION AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS / SKILLS

Bachelor's Degree in Economics or any business related field from a U.S. accredited university or college and a minimum of five (5) years management level experience in business related field. Knowledge of laws, regulations, policies and services of the Authority; knowledge of principles and practices, rules & regulations governing the QC Program; some familiarity of local laws including but not limited to Tax Law; Ability to effectively investigate, evaluate and formulate solutions; ability to effectively communicate orally and in writing; possesses strong management skills; and possesses good computer skills and proficient in MS Office applications.

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with employment application form, during regular working hours at the CDA Office, 2nd Floor, CDA Building, Oleai or may be obtained on CDA's website at www.developcnmi.com.

Applicants are requested to submit their application and supporting documents to the Office of Personnel Management.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Christy Kintol, Office Manager at (670) 234-6245 extension 310 or by e-mail at c.kintol@developcnmi.com.

Labor calls attention of employers for some violations

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Department of Labor's Administrative Hearing Office has called the attention of several employers for their alleged failure to comply with some labor regulations.

Compliance agency cases were filed against Christopher G. Imbo, which does business

as MGI Manpower Group International and Li's Limited Corp., which does business as U Save Car Rental/Lucky Tour. The department's Citizen Availability and Job Placement Section denied the appeal of TRI Enterprises Inc., which does business as Marianas Visiting Nurses.

In all these cases, Jerry Cody presided as hearing of-

ficer while James Ulloa represented the department.

Cody said that Imbo and MGI Manpower Group failed to post job vacancy announcements on Labor's website, as required by its regulations.

DOL regulations state that employers "who intends to hire or renew a foreign national worker on a full-time basis 'must' post the JVA's"

on its website.

MGI Manpower also failed to submit quarterly total workforce listings, workforce plans for 2015 and 2016, and to respond to Labor's notice of warnings.

Cody is authorized but not required to levy a maximum of \$2,000 fine for each violation.

As judgment, Cody

slapped a fine totaling \$6,200 on Imbo. He directed Imbo to pay the amount in three installments of \$2,000 twice, and \$2,200 due every 28th day of the month.

He also ordered the respondent to submit an updated and complete 2017 workforce plan by providing copies to the Enforcement and Compliance, and Hearing offices.

The administrative order also ordered Imbo to post JVAs and job renewals on the Labor website in the future. Failure to comply may result to filing of new charges. Imbo can appeal the case to Labor Secretary Edith Deleon Guerrero within 15 days.

In his administrative order for Li's Limited Corp., Cody said the company also failed to post JVAs in 2015 and 2016; submit quarterly total workforce listings in the fourth quarter of 2015, and second and third quarters of

2016; and submit a workforce plan in 2015.

Li Liang, the registered agent of the company, failed to appear in the hearing.

Limited Corp. was ordered to pay a total of \$4,500 but \$1,500 of it would be suspended for one year then extinguished "on the condition that Limited Corp. commits no further violation of labor statutes and regulations in one year, and complies with the terms of the order.

Limited Corp. is also ordered to submit total workforce listings for the fourth quarter of 2016 and an updated and complete workforce plan for 2017 by giving copies to the Labor office no later than 30 days. DOL has also ordered Li's Limited Corp. to post accurate JVAs and job renewals on their website while also warning that failure to comply would reinstate the suspended sanctions.

GHIS 6th graders shine at NJSDA competition

Three 6th grade students of Golden Harvest International School are winners in the latest National Junior Speech and Debate Association competition held last Jan. 21, 2017, at Dandan Middle

School.

Duo Interpretation

3rd Place: John Paul Labadan and Gaudie Joson

Original Oratory:

3rd Place: John Paul Labadan

5th Place: Amber Sidney Sureta

Coach: Nestor Tam

Judges: Asuncion Demapan and Jesmerlyn Taitano



The winning Golden Harvest International School students have their picture taken.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMPASI raises awareness of accessibility law

By DEMALYNN S. PAGARAO

demalynn_pagarao@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Thomas Thornburgh, program manager of the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc. and the president-elect of the Saipan Rotary Club, did a presentation on the American's with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines during the weekly Rotary meeting yesterday.

Thornburgh raised concerns about island businesses complying with the standards of the law.

"The Department of Public Works has an occupancy permit that takes note whether a building complies with the [Occupational Safety and Health Administration] requirements, Fire, ADAAG, etc." said Thornburgh. "But we have seen people continually come up and ask us to reassess their place to make sure they are up to par with the law."

When asked, "If this is a 'guideline' what makes it a law?" Thornburgh replied: "When [former lawmaker] Joe Palacios was a representative, he pushed to make a law that all businesses must accommodate

access to those with disability."

NMPASI project specialist Greg Borja also explained that in 2010 they changed the title of the ADAAG document to the "2010 Standards," which now makes it a law that businesses should provide access for people who are trying to

access your business.

Thornburgh said the ADA, which was passed in 1990, states you cannot discriminate against anyone because of his or her disability. However, compliance was still uneven, which brought about the access board.

"The ADAAG has been our go-to measure for making places accessible," Thornburgh said.

NMPASI does free assessments for anyone who wants to make sure their locations are meeting the standards. Contact them at 235-7273.



SELECT PERFORMANCE

Bonnie Gio Santana representing Troupe 88755 at the Thespians of the Western Pacific Islands, performs scene from *I'm Not My Father's Son* at the International Thespian Society's Junior Thespian Showcase at the 2017 iTheatrics Junior Theater Festival West.

MARCUS WOOLLEN

Torres signs bill for new Tinian public highway

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has approved a measure to establish a new public highway on Tinian, which will be known as Route 205.

Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) penned Senate Bill 19-22; it is now known as Public Law 19-85.

The Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development, and Programs—headed by then Senate vice president Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan)—recommended the passage of SB 19-22 on June 2; the Senate passed it the following day. The House passed it on Dec. 28.

The law's purpose is to provide greater access for economic development in the eastern and southern parts of the island.

Aside from establishing a new Tinian public highway, the new law mandates the designation of public lands for the new highway including access to fishing and hunting areas, with the Department of Public Safety acting as enforcement and emergency response agency.

The priority now is the construction design within the Capital Improvement Project office and Department of Public Works federal highway funds program.

The U.S. military leases two-thirds of Tinian, particularly the island's northern to the central part, making the land limited.

Tinian currently has one major highway, Broadway,

in the middle of the island. It stretches from the military area in the north to the San Jose village.

Despite land being scarce, homestead and agricultural developments were still established on the island's east and south side.

The lack of a public highway and available land limits economic development in San Jose, neglecting Tinian's eastern and southern parts. Access to other parts of the island have also been difficult and dangerous to other cars since existing roads are small and unpaved.

"The Legislature finds that a new public highway must be built to provide a safe and efficient transportation from Route 200 south down to Puntan Carolinas and up through Puntan Kastiyu and Puntan Pina Plateuas and further up to Puntan Barangka to Punta Masalog and Puntan Asiga until the high way connects to Broadway on Tinian's northern part," wrote Hofschneider in PL 19-85.

Route 205 will connect with other highways while also promoting the establishment of new homestead subdivisions and economic opportunities on the island that includes the eastern and southern parts. The highway must not be less than 200 feet from the cliff line.

The Department of Public Lands would designate available public lands for the design and construction of Route 205, which would include access to areas for fishing and hunting.

Thursday, Friday is mock trial competition

On Feb. 16 and 17, high school students from Rota, Tinian, and Saipan will compete in the 19th Annual CNMI High School Mock Trial Competition at the Guma’ Hustisia. Students will be presenting a criminal case in front of judges and jurors, portraying the roles of attorneys, plaintiff, defendant, and witnesses. The competition gives student hands-on experience in presenting arguments and witness testimonies, practicing courtroom procedures, learn-

Finance warns vs impersonators

The Department of Finance warned consumers, government, and private entities yesterday to verify the identities of any person claiming to represent a government agency, regulator or enforcement personnel. The public is urged to withhold providing information from anyone claiming to represent a government agency and collecting a debt or fee of any kind

HONOR ROLL

The following is Kagman High Schools fall 2016 honor roll listing:

12TH GRADE PRINCIPAL'S LIST

1. Kloe Borja
2. Kysel Butters
3. Andrea Camacho
4. Brittney Hamilton
5. Philippe Lacson
6. Talianna Magofna
7. Nikela Masayos
8. Riana Nauta
9. Alfredo Ngalongalo
10. Alexa San Nicolas
11. Iramhel Talon

12TH GRADE HONOR ROLL “A”

1. David Babauta
2. Deeana Castro
3. Jonas Okawa
4. Juan Quitugua Jr.
5. Lilly-Ann Sablan
6. Tara Tudela

12TH GRADE HONOR ROLL “B”

1. Noreen Angui
2. Neling Arriola
3. Alyssa Babauta
4. Tiara Babauta
5. Steffany Calantog
6. Peter Manuel Camacho Jr.
7. Raybert Camacho
8. Tia Camacho
9. Tiyani Camacho
10. Reina Cepeda
11. Erika Coronado
12. Jocelyn Lacay

13. Vincent Leon Guerrero
14. Chelsey Mendiola
15. Annie Ray Mortel
16. Elisha Ogumoro
17. Donald Pangelinan Jr.
18. Jose Quitano
19. Bradley Santos
20. Nathan Santos
21. Mildred Seman

11TH GRADE PRINCIPAL'S LIST

1. Gedin Cabrera
2. Mannelyn Cabrera
3. Alejandra Camacho
4. Alyssa Cepeda
5. Maureen Cruz
6. Austin Deleon Guerrero
7. Chelsea Isip
8. Junita Jetley
9. Immaculada Litulumar
10. Julie Loong
11. Aldionne Maglanque
12. Aaron Ogumoro
13. Gregory Pinaula
14. Kyle Quitano
15. Enrique Rabauliman
16. Francine Rago
17. Frances Santos
18. Patrick Santos Jr.
19. Dionessis Valdisimo
20. Edson Valdisimo

11TH GRADE HONOR ROLL “A”

1. Jeremy Agulto
2. Christian Arceo
3. Kayjon Boadi

4. Kyle Camacho
5. Reanna Dizon
6. Kayleen Faisao
7. Marikishalin Iguel
8. Bella Semens
9. Charmel Shrestha
10. Nathaley Smith
11. Jovi Takai
12. Kaito Yanai

11TH GRADE HONOR ROLL “B”

1. Franklin Aldan
2. Debra Atinisom
3. Mustafa Augustino
4. Dionisio Babauta
5. Alvin Cabrera Jr.
6. Bryan Camacho
7. Ulen Camacho
8. Jeffrey Consignado
9. Joey Cruz Jr.
10. Patrick Duenas Jr.
11. Kyle Fabia
12. Michaelangelo Fitil
13. Ryan Francisco
14. John Granada
15. Donnalyn Hocog
16. Tamika Hossein
17. Trini Iguel
18. Christine Kapileo
19. Ngirabeketei Kelulau
20. Oscar Lizama
21. Leikita Maliuyaf
22. Andrei Membrere
23. Delores Mendiola
24. Jose Naputi
25. Leila Nawaz
26. Jelbert Quitugua
27. Ilon Smith
28. Gary Taitano
29. Shanalyn Taitano
30. Corene Tenorio

31. Eblai Ulechong
32. Eugene Villagomez

10TH GRADE PRINCIPAL'S LIST

1. Mikah Bandoja
2. De Faustina Camacho
3. Mariecris Estal
4. Genzo Gonzales
5. Kristine Palmes
6. Kyle San Nicolas
7. Britney Takai

10TH GRADE HONOR ROLL “A”

1. Manuel Borja
2. Marc Borja
3. Allia Calilap
4. Ella Eusebio
5. Rosalie Henderson
6. Trinae Manglona

10TH GRADE HONOR ROLL “B”

1. Romel Ada
2. Aundrea Aldan
3. Jacklyn Arriola
4. Presley Augustino
5. Regiene Babauta
6. Dan Bacalso
7. Dean Blake
8. Francis Borja
9. Jose Cabrera
10. Andres Camacho
11. Brandon Camacho
12. Breanna-Kay Camacho
13. Alvonny Cepeda
14. Mikeangela Charfauros
15. Noelani Charley

16. Bobbie Danford III
17. Sherjean Dela Cruz
18. Andy Estella
19. Freddie Guerrero Jr.
20. Jovanny Ilderbei
21. Keoni Kaipat
22. Antonia Lizama
23. Kimo Lizama
24. David Mafnas
25. Rickie Magofna
26. Darian Masayos
27. Jolyn Ocampo
28. Jovina Pua
29. Juan Quitano
30. Anthony Reyes Jr.
31. Alanna Romolor
32. Laealdrie Sablan
33. Peter Santos
34. Livingston Sigrah
35. Kyle Taitano
36. Goddhy Taitingfong

9TH GRADE HONOR ROLL “B”

1. Rhea Adolfo
2. Joaquin Agulto
3. Johnalyn Agulto
4. Samuel Alvarez
5. Daenisha Babauta
6. Catalina Cabrera
7. Diony Camacho Jr.
8. Jovan Camacho
9. Lewis Camacho
10. Mekhay Carlos
11. Nolan Gatharmeg
12. Jemalynn Iguel
13. Tiauna Iguel
14. Joelyn Kaainoa
15. Philip Kapileo
16. Joannie Laniyo
17. Darlyn Maca
18. Annika Mafnas
19. Hana Mafnas
20. Angela Manibusan
21. Maureen Mendiola
22. Jeremy Ngiraked
23. Vanessa Ongelungel
24. Kelly Ann Pangelinan
25. Chloe Ramon
26. Stephane Rejano
27. Alnisia Remoket
28. Enrico Santos
29. Iverson Santos
30. Magthalina Sebuu
31. Marian Taitano
32. Chance Takahashy
33. Joan Weita

9TH GRADE PRINCIPAL'S LIST

1. Thomas Benavente
2. Kiesha Duenas
3. Pedro Maritita
4. Jennifer Muna
5. Hannah Palacios
6. Nina Valdisimo
7. 9th Grade Honor Roll “A”
8. Anthony Agulto Jr.
9. Elisabeth Agumon
10. Christian Alepuyo
11. Angelina Camacho
12. Autumn Camacho
13. Miguel Fitipol
14. Keonilyn Litulumar
15. Shanae Nestor
16. Aira Ngalongalo
17. Chloe Omengkar

ing the judicial system and the law, and developing important skills such as leadership, public speaking, critical thinking, and teamwork.


Over the past few months, participating students have been working hard preparing for the competition under the guidance of teachers and volunteer attorney coaches. Students also had a chance to develop their skills through the Mock Trial Academy held by the Judiciary last December.

At the competition, each team will compete in four rounds over the two-day period.

At the conclusion of the preliminary rounds, the top two teams will go head-to-head in a final championship round.

The winner of the competition will represent the CNMI at the National High School Mock Trial Championship in Hartford, Connecticut in May.

The Judiciary, CNMI Bar Association, and Public School System, co-hosts and sponsors of the competition, would like to thank the executive and legislative branches and various community sponsors for their support of the mock trial program. *(PR)*



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 17-DLNR/DOA-093

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRAURY 28, 2017 **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

**“LEASE OF A 4X4 PICK UP TRUCK (4 FULL DOORS) FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES”**


COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RICHARD B. SEMAN
SECRETARY OF DLNR /S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
IRECTOR, P&S





**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 17-DPW/R&G-095

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 15, 2017 **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**


**“PURCHASE OF TWO (2) 4X4 PICK UP TRUCK –
4 DOORS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.
ROADS AND GROUNDS DIVISION”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS /S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S





**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 17-SAR-081

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 3, 2017 **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

**“PURCHASE OF A 4X4 PICK UP TRUCK – 4 DOORS (OFF-ROAD AND TOWING
PACKAGE) FOR THE OFFICE OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND REHABILITATION”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ YVETTE R. SABLAN
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE & REHABILITATION /S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR OF P&S





**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 17-TDLNR-085-CIF TINIAN

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 01, 2017 **TIME: 9:30A.M.**

**“PURCHASE OF A TRACTOR MOWER WITH 3 ATTACHMENTS
FOR TINIAN DEPARTMENT OF LANDS & NATURAL RESOURCES”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JOEY R. SAN NICOLAS
MAYOR OF TINIAN & AGUIGUAN /S/ GUILLERMO C. BORJA
RESIDENT DEPARTMENT HEAD, TDLNR /S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S



ROBERT T. TORRES, ESQ.
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 503758 CK
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: 234-7859
Fax: 234-5750

Attorney for Petitioner Dora Anne Inos Deleon Guerrero

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS**

) CIVIL ACTION NO.:
) 17-0044

IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF) AMENDED NOTICE OF
) HEARING ON PETITION
EULOGIO SONGAO INOS,) FOR LETTER OF
ADMINISTRATION
Deceased.)
Date: April 27, 2017
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Judge: Camacho

**TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS,
CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE
EULOGIO SONGAO INOS OR HIS ESTATE:**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **Dora Anne Inos Deleon Guerrero** has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of Eulogio Songao Inos, the deceased. The attorney for Petitioner is **Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law**, whose address is **Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950**.

The hearing on the Petition by Dora Anne Inos Deleon Guerrero, as Petitioner, is scheduled to be heard on April 27, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or his Estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to **ROBERT T. TORRES, Attorney at Law**, at the address herein-above indicated.

Dated this 8 day of February, 2017.

**/s/ Clerk of Court
Deputy Clerk of Court**

ROBERT T. TORRES, ESQ.
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 503758 CK
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: 234-7859
Fax: 234-5750

Attorney for Petitioner Dora Anne Inos Deleon Guerrero

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS**

) CIVIL ACTION NO.:
) 17-0045

IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF) AMENDED NOTICE OF
) HEARING ON PETITION
DOLORES AGULTO INOS,) FOR LETTER OF
ADMINISTRATION
Deceased.)
Date: April 27, 2017
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Judge: Camacho

**TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS,
CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE
DOLORES AGULTO INOS OR HER ESTATE:**


NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **Dora Anne Inos Deleon Guerrero** has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of Dolores Agulto Inos, the deceased. The attorney for Petitioner is **Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law**, whose address is **Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950**.

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Dated this 8 day of February, 2017.

**/s/ Clerk of Court
Deputy Clerk of Court**



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp



**NOTICE OF MEETING
OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 09, 2017, at 10:00AM** at the Rota Courthouse Room in Sinapalo, Rota.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
a) Call to Order
b) Roll Call
c) Adoption of Agenda
d) Adoption of the January 19 & 24, 2017 Meeting Minutes

II. PERMIT APPLICATION
1. Rota-DPW Coral Quarry Project
CRM Permit Application No. RMS-2016-X-086
a. Discussions by CRM Agency Officials and DCRM Director
b. Permit Application Determination

III. OTHER MATTERS
IV. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items. (NOTE: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ FRANCES A. CASTRO
DCRM Director

High surf advisory until Friday

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, large north-northwest swell continues across the Marianas

waters. Winds will become fresh to strong from north to south across the region by tonight, Wednesday, as a shear line pushes slowly southward. This shear line will produce light rain and drizzle through Wednesday across Tinian and

Saipan waters and scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms Wednesday night and Thursday for Rota waters.

A high surf advisory remains in effect until 6pm Friday.

Surf will likely fall below

hazardous levels tonight as swell turns toward the northeast.

Along north facing reefs, surf will gradually diminish to hazardous levels at 7 to 9 feet today, Wednesday. Surf will likely remain hazardous

through the week.

A small craft advisory remains in effect until 6pm Friday.

Combined seas of 9 to 12 feet will produce hazardous conditions for operators of small craft. Conditions will not improve through the week as winds will become fresh to strong from north to south across the region by Wednesday night. Hazardous conditions will persist through at least Friday.

Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid sailing in these conditions. Avoid venturing out to exposed reef lines and beaches, especially along north and west facing shores as rip currents will be life-threatening. (EOC)

CSD releases 2015 CNMI Statistical Yearbook

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Commerce's Central Statistics Division, announced yesterday the release of the 2015 CNMI Statistical Yearbook.

The yearbook is a comprehensive annual publication on a wide range of topics covering the CNMI's demographics on health, educa-

tion, labor force and employment, income, public safety, trade, prices and other related statistics mandated by the Statistical Act.

Commerce Secretary Mark Rabauliman said the yearbook includes data that encompass statistics pertinent to the population and economy.

"It's a report that's long overdue and I am pleased with

its final publication. In its 27 years of existence, 23 years of the Statistics Office have been marked by unique and valuable statistics for publication.

This edition is organized in a consistent table format including charts, maps and a conversion table between the English and the metric systems for those who may need it," Rabauliman said.

Torres said the report is a valuable addition to tracking the CNMI's economic growth.

"This is great news as we have not had this important report published for quite some time now and I am elated to be able to finally get this out for our stakeholders. I commend all who contributed data to this publication and encourage them to continue to collabo-

rate with our Statistics Office to ensure that data is provided for the upcoming annual publications," Torres said.

The department acknowledges the contributions of the many departments, agencies, and partners as well as the technical assistance and expertise provided by Dr. Michael Levin in compiling and publishing this report. Additionally, the department also commends the extra efforts by the Statistics Division staff in

ensuring that this 11th Edition of the CNMI Statistical Yearbook is published.

The Consumer Price Index revisions and corrections for 2014 third and fourth quarters and 2015 first quarter have also been released with the rest of the CPI report to be updated in the coming weeks.

All published statistical reports can be accessed via the department's website at www.commerce.gov.mp. (PR)

Public invited to a health walk on March 3

The public is invited to the 2017 Sunset Health Walk & Run on March 3, a Friday.

This event is one of the many events being held in the month of March as a part of CNMI Women's Month.

The event, sponsored by special assistant for Women's Affairs Dolores R. Drew, together with the 14th Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Non-Communicable Disease Bureau, is a way for all members of the community to promote physical activity, along with celebrating the importance of having a community of healthy women in the CNMI.

The course runs from the Trongkon Da'ok Pavilion up north to the tank at the Quartermaster Road and back.

The activities start at 2:30pm at the Trongkon Da'ok Pavilion at Kilili Beach across the Marianas High School. Registration is free. It is possible to register at the site on the day of the event.

Registration starts at 2:30pm with the run beginning at 3pm. Free gifts are available for the first 200 people that sign up, with refreshments after the activity. Also, the NCD bureau will be on hand to conduct health outreach as well as free blood glucose and blood pressure screening.

For more information, contact Women's Affairs outreach coordinator Geraldine Sebaklim at 664-2659/989-4651 or at geraldine.sebaklim@gov.mp.

You can also log on to Facebook for more information regarding the activity at <https://www.facebook.com/events/154993475007234/>. (PR)



VALENTINE'S DAY DONATION

Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands chair Gloria Cavanagh, in black, presents a \$1,000 donation to the Saipan Senior Advisory Council at the Office on Aging on Feb. 14, 2017, in celebration of Valentine's Day.

HANMI

NMI drug court now accepting referrals, participants

In December 2016, the Superior Court's Drug Court Division began accepting referrals and participants into its program.

The drug court was founded on the premise that many addicts are arrested for behavior related to their addictions and engages participants in a model and structure that is supportive of success in recovery.

The CNMI Judiciary and the drug court team have worked tirelessly to create a program that incorporates drug dependency treatment with continuous judicial supervision.

The drug court team is composed of the judge, manager, caseworkers, and representatives of the Office of the Attorney General, Office of the Public Defender, Department of Public Safety, Department of Corrections, and designated treatment providers such as the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Community Guidance Center. The mission of the drug



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio, third from left, poses with CNMI drug court staff and partners after a drug court hearing on Feb. 2, 2017. Others in photo are, from left, Corrections Commissioner Georgia Cabrera, Community Guidance Center's Ed Camacho, Northern Marianas College intern Alvin Tagabuel, assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit, drug court case worker Jaclyn T. Mendiola, drug court manager TaAnn Kabua, assistant attorney general Chester Hinds, Superior Court law clerk Jackie Nicolas, and Superior Court deputy clerk Kristy Diaz. Not in photo are Department of Public Safety representatives lieutenant Paul Ogumoro and officer Fred Sato.

court is to address substance use and drug-related criminal activity with a multidisciplinary approach that integrates evidence-based and

culturally sensitive treatment services.

The drug court's progress was made possible by the support of community lead-

ers and stakeholders. The drug court team acknowledges and thanks Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, the Legislature, and contributing agencies for

their support of drug court and those impacted by substance use addiction.

If you or your agency is interested in learning more

about the drug court or being a community resource, contact drug court manager TaAnn T. Kabua at tkabua.dcp@gmail.com. (PR)

NEWS BRIEFS

Xavier entrance exam on Feb. 25

The Xavier High School entrance written exam will be administered on Saturday, Feb. 25, at 8:30am at Mt. Carmel School. Interested test takers are encouraged to bring several No. 2 pencils, snacks, and water. Exam fee is \$10.

There are two parts to the exam (English and math). Each exam lasts 1 hour and 30 minutes with a 15-minute break in between. Test takers should be prepared to be on the Mt. Carmel school grounds for three hours and 30 minutes from 8am to 11:30pm. Exam starts exactly at 8:30am.

Xavier High School is a Jesuit Catholic school. Interested exam takers are encouraged to RSVP a seat. Email ialafanso@gmail.com or call 285-8768. (PR)

SHEFA deadline

To all new, ongoing, and returning applicants, the deadline for supporting documents for SHEFA financial assistance is Feb. 28, 2017. (PR)

Kagman cluster schools set PTSA meeting

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that the Kagman cluster schools will be having a PTSA meeting on Thursday, Feb. 16, 2017, from 3:30pm to 4:30pm at ChaCha Ocean View Middle School cafeteria followed by mid-progress report for ChaCha OceanView Middle School from 4:30pm to 6pm.

Please call the school at 237-3921 or 664-4100 if you have any question or concerns. (PR)

Bodybuilding federation to host fundraiser

The Northern Marianas Bodybuilding & Physique Federation will be holding a "Party in the Park" on Feb. 25, 2017, from 6pm to 9pm, at the Garapan Central Park (Roundhouse) to raise funds for our bodybuilders to compete in local and international competitions. The cost is \$20 per person.

The federation is preparing for the 3rd Annual Marianas Muscle competition to be held on March 25, 2017, and in July it will be holding the CNMI bodybuilding championships. These events will be officially sanctioned by NMBPF and will determine those competitors who will be eligible to represent the CNMI in international competitions.

For tickets, contact Jeanne Rayphand at 287-9807 or email jeanneesq@yahoo.com or Karen Davis, at 789-9214. (PR)

McFun Run to take place on Feb. 18

The Rotary Club of Saipan and McDonald's Saipan will be hosting the Annual McFun Run on Saturday, Feb. 18, 2017, along Saipan's beautiful Beach Road pathway. This event for 5K and 10K runs along the pathway from the Carolinian *utt* in Garapan to the 5K turnaround by the National Office Supply or the

turnaround at the Oleai Beach Bar and Grill and back to the Carolinian *utt*. Registration begins at 5am at the Carolinian *utt*. Start time is 6:15am. Registration forms are available or can be picked up at all Saipan McDonald's branches, MegaByte, or NMPSI office. (PR)

Deadline to apply for CHAP Fellowship

The Northern Marianas College's Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education

Service is reminding all NMC students that the deadline to apply for the Child Health Assessment in the Pacific Undergraduate Summer Fellowship Program is on Feb. 15, 2017. Students that get accepted into the program will be awarded with a \$2,100 stipend. All travel, meal, and housing expenses for a seven-day training opportunity at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa will be covered through the fellowship. For more information,

contact Patricia Coleman at NMC-CREES at (670) 237-6842, email chapac@hawaii.edu or visit www.chl-pacific.org. (NMC)

Christian school to hold mission on Saipan

The Okinawa Christian School International has sent a mission team of 10 high school students and two chaperones to Saipan. This team will be working with the Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts. On Thursday, Feb.

16, they will hold a beach party for teenagers after school until 5pm at the beach across MHS. This event will include prizes, games, snacks, and a youth challenge.

On Friday, Feb. 17, OCSI will host a free Pizza Party Youth event at Kagman Community Church from 7pm to 9pm. This is also open to all middle school and high school students.

For more information call 256-8171 or email flybjrew@yahoo.com. (PR)



LAULAU BEACH CLEANUP

Members of the Northern Marianas Dive Operators Association and the Marianas Visitors Authority join forces to clean up Laulau Beach on Feb. 11, 2017, where they cut grass, cleared brush, and picked up trash and debris. NMDOA and the MVA jointly adopted the popular dive spot several years ago and conduct quarterly cleanups at the site.

MVA

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Background checks are absolutely warranted for some mentally ill gun buyers

Could there be any good outcome from making it easier for seriously mentally ill citizens to buy guns? The Republican-led U.S. House of Representatives apparently thinks so, voting 235-180 along party lines to overturn an Obama administration rule extending background checks for Social Security recipients who are mentally unable to work or care for their own finances.

The regulation was part of an effort by the Obama administration to strengthen gun control laws after the 2012 school massacre in Newtown, Conn. Not surprisingly, the National Rifle Association opposed it, but the former president finalized it in the last days of his administration. The House bill to reverse Obama's regulation now goes to the Senate.

Gun-control advocates say the expanded regulation, increasing scrutiny on about 75,000 recipients of Social Security disability benefits, would have had limited impact on gun violence. But limited impact in a nation with weak gun laws is better than nothing.

It also might have prevented the deaths of some seriously mentally ill people. Mental health experts say that between 6,000 and 18,000 mentally ill people kill themselves with guns every year. The National Alliance on Mental Illness cites research that about 90 percent of people who commit suicide have experienced mental illness.

Psychiatrists say the mentally ill are no more prone to committing violence against others than the population at large, despite highly publicized mass shootings by the likes of James Holmes in Aurora, Colo., and Adam Lanza in Newtown, who had histories of mental illness. They say about 4 percent of all violence in the United States is attributable to serious mental illness.

Janet Delana of Wellington, Mo., near Kansas City, asked Congress to hold off on repealing the regulation, saying it would have prevented her mentally ill daughter from buying a gun she used to kill her father in 2012.

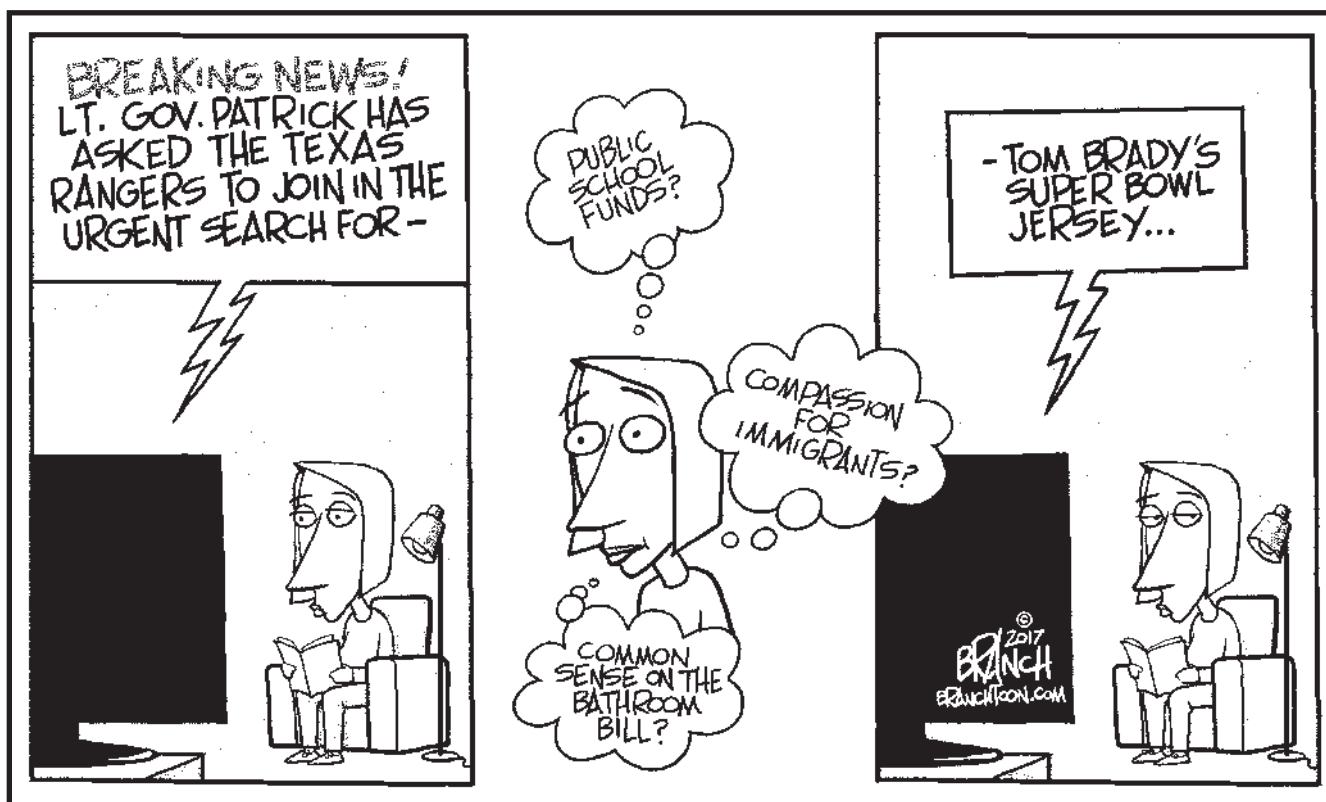
"She shot her father to death, and tried once again to take her own life," said Delana in an Associated Press story about the regulation. "She is now in an institution for life, and my husband is gone."

The regulation would not have denied guns to mentally ill citizens. It would have flagged them for the Social Security Administration to report to the federal background check system so their names would come up if they tried to purchase firearms.

The NRA and the American Civil Liberties Union argued the rule violates the Second Amendment rights of people with mental illness without adequate due process. But screening people with serious mental illnesses before they purchase guns doesn't seem like too much to ask.

A person who is unable to handle forms for disability benefits may be too ill to own a gun. The regulation didn't take away their right; it simply added a layer of protection for the rest of us.

(c)2017 St. Louis Post-Dispatch



Mitch McConnell's crime of passion against Elizabeth Warren

After 32 years in the Senate, Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) has earned a reputation as a wily legislative wizard and a cynical genius at outwitting Democrats.

So when McConnell invoked a little-used Senate rule to silence Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) as she read a letter from Coretta Scott King denouncing President Trump's nominee for attorney general, Congress-watchers figured there had to be a clever strategy behind the move.

Sure, millions of people watched a video of Warren reading the letter just outside the Senate chamber. Sure, he turned her into a liberal folk hero. But maybe McConnell was trying to make Warren a front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2020, figuring she'd be a weak candidate. Maybe he hoped to make her the face of the Democratic Party in the 2018 congressional election, to frighten Midwestern moderates.

Nope. Sometimes a blunder is just a blunder.

The reasons for McConnell's crackdown against Warren were pretty simple.

First, McConnell loathes the Massachusetts senator. He doesn't like her politics; he doesn't like her manner.

More pointedly, McConnell thinks Warren has been stepping outside the blurry boundaries of Senate courtesy for a while. "She has been warned multiple times, not just today," McConnell spokesman Don Stewart told NBC News.

Warren has attacked McConnell himself, accusing him of "bullying" the Senate in his role as majority leader.

Her tough speech Wednesday reviving charges of bigotry against then-still-Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.) was a last straw, aides said. As unlikely as it sounds when applied to the owl McConnell, his move against Warren was a crime of passion.

There may also have been a practical reason McConnell told Warren to shut up and sit down: It was a gesture of loyalty toward Sessions—and not merely because Sessions, as a senator, had been a reliable conservative vote. McConnell and Trump have had an arm's length relationship until now; the Senate leader has publicly (if gently) criticized the president several times. Sessions, the new attorney general and a close Trump advisor, will be one of McConnell's main conduits to the White House.

Still, there's no question that the decision to silence Warren backfired—badly. The furor gained the Massachusetts senator far more attention than her otherwise routine speech would have if it hadn't been interrupted.

"She was warned. She was given an explanation. Nevertheless, she persisted," McConnell said, inadvertently launching a meme that could become Warren's next campaign slogan.

The result: The majority leader turned the confirmation vote on Sessions, a loss for the Democrats, into a vehicle they could use to rally their partisan base. Male Democrats took the floor to read King's letter into the record. When McConnell didn't object, they said that was proof of his sexism. (His hostility was aimed at Warren, not all women, but that point was lost.)

Strange as it may seem, McConnell's late-night error is likely to have long-term consequences, as well.

By **DOYLE MCMANUS**

Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com



One, a dent in the majority leader's reputation as a strategist, which was already a little tattered.

He's made mistakes before. In 2012, leading a GOP minority, he demanded an up-or-down vote on a debt ceiling bill in an attempt to divide Democrats—but when the Democrats outfoxed him by hanging together, he blocked his own proposal with an embarrassing filibuster.

In his first weeks as majority leader in 2014, he promised to open the legislative process to amendments from both sides—only to abandon the pledge when it became troublesome in practice.

In 2015, he bungled a renewal of the anti-terrorist Patriot Act when he didn't realize that a member of his own party, Rand Paul (R-Ky.), was determined to block the bill unless changes were made.

McConnell's Senate, in short, hasn't been as orderly and productive as he wanted.

More important, the episode showed Democrats that their quickest path to heroism, at least among their supporters and donors, is relentless resistance to Trump and McConnell.

They were headed in that direction already, thanks to the grassroots protests that erupted when some of them (including Warren) voted to confirm one or two Cabinet nominees.

A Politico/Morning Consult poll released last week showed that most Democrats want members of Congress to stick to their principles, even if that means blocking all legislation and nominees.

That's a problem for McConnell. For his Senate to look like a success, he needs to pass a tax reform bill, a replacement for President Obama's healthcare law, and a series of spending bills. If he keeps the rule requiring 60 votes for major legislation to advance, he'll need some Democratic votes. His collision with Warren, even though she represents the progressive edge of her own party, made that harder.

Instead, Democrats are now more likely to exploit the tools Senate rules give them to obstruct legislation, demand amendments and force Republicans to vote on measures that will embarrass them or divide them from Trump.

McConnell will label them obstructionists, but the Democrats know that obstructionism works—that when Congress is gridlocked, most voters will blame the party in the White House.

Where did they learn that? From McConnell, of course. That was the strategy he used to frustrate Obama; it was how he became majority leader in 2015. Now he must watch, and fume, as his opponents turn it against him.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Ineyag Pinasensia

Sigi hu assimula haf na sumen antau disision peskadot gi offisiun niha. Mauleg tata lun bumisita pot para ta eyag sattun leksion pot disision.

Si Jesukristu hana setbi peskadot kumu ihemplu. Unu, mipasensia gi todū asuntōña. I otu, mehnaalum, kabilosu, ha tuñgu mangotdin haguēt, mamegan katnada yan űgai an nai para u dagau haguētña.

I ihemplu ha esplikakaye hit benefisiun pinasensia gi asunto-ta siha diariu. Sin pinasensia, libianu modun hasupag nai katkuet tiempu manuguñg hau sin man-hassu. Mofo na i heñun hasupag antau na hinasomu.

Huñgan, buenti pot man-tautau hit na mofona aksion sin antau na konsiderasion. Dispues de sattun umeyag-yu sensian pinasensia nai hu repara haf gi finu man-amku signifikasioña che chu echu tautau.

Hu hala halum sensian respetu, hinimiddi, yine asi, yan kinemprendi gi nesessidat yan iniguñg namase na prohimu-hu. Dimas de bai disfruta i prohimu, mamatkilu-yu umekuñgog yan man-atan pot no bai na puti. Dispues, taya rason na para baina putigüe.

Estague na birada nai siempre un soda impottansiaña mauleg na relasion yan prohimu-mu. I man-atuñgo mu man-hihot ya esta namanman sensian gineftau niha piot gi oran gotpi. Mañge na siñienti mi-atuñgo sino amigu.

Bisiun Loru: I paluman loru mafana gue kumuentos estake siña ha repite haf finanagueña. An chatfinu, pues kasi todū dia chinatfinue hau, yamu pat tiyamu. Ayu ha ha repite i mafanagueña.

Guaha ha lokue na tautau hapopo lu na man-loru siha. Sessu teña masañgane hit haf kultura yan tradision tautau-ta. Achog ti mafafaisen kumuentos sin presisu sa mafanague lokue bisiun loru.

Lau repara sa puru finu chatfayi ni mandañosu para hita.

Masen tuñgu batunes natibu para umana fan bubu. Dispues, mañeha sa hita humoka i ha diseseha na ineppe ginen hita mismu. Man-mapalala e hit fina latigasu pot para umaprisetba fuetsan niha politika!

An un ebalua haf probicho-ta, seru! Siha umatisa mas ginefsagan niha gi potput na sueddu yan linala man-gefsaga mientras hita man-e epineduñg an sopblan imbarasus ginen i satgen kusina.

Patman Kanaita: Gi todū kinalamten gi ha anita, taya tumatachu gi uttimu besis fuera ke hita mismu dispues de manhanau todū.

Poresu na debi ta diskuti yan ebalua mauleg haf asunto-ta siha gi karera mona. Yangin guaha sattun na diniseha para ta planeha futtunan famaguon-ta pues gaige gi dos patman kanaimu ennau na asunto.

Nahuñg na insuttu yan diskuidu man-malapbla hit ni publiku gi priniponen hatsadan sueddu man-ma gas 80 pot sientu. Dispues, madagau siñku pot sientu na to lañg manog para tafan agululumi. Man-malefa na tatuñgu lokue haf mauleg yan kombeni gi todū asunto-ta.

Debi tana fan matatñga hit gi asunto-ta siha para mona. Che chu achibau gi hilu gulosu (ambenteria) para buchun niha esta nahuñg. Otru sakan na eleksion nai mas presisu este na inadade. Maila tafanu e i man-chatsabiu na nahuñg na intension destrosiu bidan niha. No Mas!

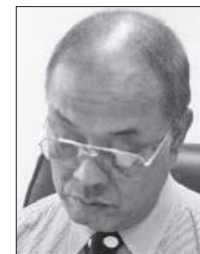
Nahuñg: Bes enkuandu, man-huyuñg i inetnun indihinau (NMDC) sigi ma-atisa asunto siha ni hagas tatuñgu. Mabohau ni guehan kultura kulan mohnigap hit ha na finañagu.

Dispues, man-malefa na sumen taya bidan niha para umadelanta modun linala tautau tanu. Lau duru machalegua siha pot direchun tautau-ta. Hu atan i oriyahu para bai keli e kau haye fumababa i natibu. Ti mañoda yu fuera ke manadan kuentos

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of Department of Public Lands.



fabulas de chispas ginen tropan indihinau mismu.

Komprendiyun i mafa presu kutturan natibu pot natatah na politikan niha. Haf aidentifikat natibu? Siña in pila este na kuestion gi hilu mehnaalum yan kabilosu na esplikasion?

Kumu siña este in pila kasi siña bai n tutuhun man-ekuñgog. Lau gi hilu bulachu na kuentos fabulas de chispas, un ratu ha sa guaha mas mauleg para bai n che gue. Dispues, in tiñgu kultura yan tradision natibu!

Doble Balutan: Mafañagu-yu lamayot patte Chamorro yan dididi haga Karolinas. I meskla gi haga hu tatnai ha estotbayu desde pinatgon-hu. Hu tuñgu na makreansa-yu fitme ginen petlas relihion yan kultura-hu.

Gi halum doble kultura taimanu para bai pula hafa dichu aidentifikasion kultura-hu (cultural identity)? Poresu na hu bibiray sessu tatte gi pisun kutturan natibu relihion. Desde respetu, yine ase, inagofli e, mehnaalum yan todū masimientu giya hita ni natibu desde tiempun Españot.

I kutturan relihion Katolisismo i pisu, haligi, fanliheñg yan luserun Chamorro yan Karolinas. Ayu mina man-ma ug hit gi todū pinetsigi para ta adelanta hit kumu natibu! Maila tafan agu ot kanai sa anaku karera-ta yan famaguon-ta siha. Si lku.

Pot Tautau-ta: Bes enkuandu mauleg ta abiba gi hechuran kanta-ta pot tautau-ta yan tano ta. Tafan man-na e mit gracias gi Saina pot rikesan este siha na man-gatbun petlas. Gi hilu sattun na dinaña siempre ta soda ginefsaga-ta gi karera mona.

Dear Donald, take a breath

We know it's not easy being you, Mr. President. Even the guy you nominated to the Supreme Court, your first attempt at building a solid conservative majority there, has taken a shot at you.

Everybody knows by now that Judge Neil Gorsuch of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals found your remarks about some of his fellow jurists demoralizing and disheartening. And it's obvious there are times you think being president trumps (pun intended) everything else, including the judicial branch of government. Your handling of this particular situation squarely fits the pattern you've established in your first few weeks in office: Attack the source of your discomfort. Never ignore.

So, when Democratic Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut said Gorsuch had expressed his personal discomfort, you turned your wrath on Blumenthal's credibility, citing a discrepancy about Vietnam duty revealed several years ago. Never mind that a White House adviser had confirmed Gorsuch's remarks.

Well ho hum, just another day in the White House Now You See it Now You Don't Office.

Why, just before Gorsuch gave you heartburn, you tied into the media—a favorite target—after citing false figures about rising crime rates. You said the rates are growing rapidly when they actually are in decline over all despite the exception of a few cities.

As one sits back watching snafu after snafu arise out of your apparent desire to change the world and clean up its ills in biblical time—the alleged seven days, or somewhere near that—one must wonder if the mistakes are from an inept, politically untutored staff or just a boss who doesn't understand how this constitutionally guided country really works.

You seem to sense that making up things is workable and useful because your loyal supporters really don't care as long as the promises you made brashly throughout the primaries and general election campaigns are fulfilled. So, you lie.

Who cares? So did (name your president), you'd say.

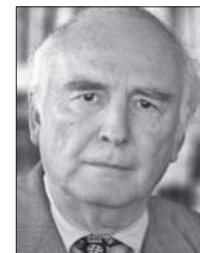
Your penchant for having things both ways is clear in your promise that this nation of mayhem will be significantly cleaned up when criminal immigrants are dealt with yet dedicating yourself to preserving one of the true causes of modern crime, the Second Amendment's nearly unfettered authorization of the distribution of firearms. Gun control? What the heck has that got to do with anything? Once again, check with Chicago.

Clearly, there are going to be mistakes in the early days of a presidency, especially when a new chief executive is out to fulfill campaign promises without first determining what already is being done about particular issues and how those efforts can be tailored to meet his own objectives. Prudence is a powerful tool

By DAN K. THOMASSON

Tribune News Service

Dan Thomasson is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service and a former vice president of Scripps Howard Newspapers. Readers may send him email at: thomassondan@aol.com.



as one makes his way through the pitfalls of the most difficult job on earth.

The presidential ban on immigrants from seven nations under injunction is a timely example. The ban was cobbled together by Donald Trump and his key advisers without regard to its public impact and practical application to those already in the immigration pipeline, not to mention the damage it might cause to our nation's image as one of the most open and fair societies in world history. Also, a more thoughtful and lengthy debate among advisers might have produced action without overtones of religious prejudice.

Trump has established the national mainline media as the boogeyman out to thwart his every initiative. It's a lousy position to be in, resulting in him being compared with the major demagogues of history, who have always needed an imagined evil target to justify radical policies and behavior.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The concept of *respetu* in our culture

Our way of life, our language, our beliefs and experiences, respect for one another, and our unique customs (including the food we eat)—all of these together constitute our culture and tradition that make us a special people.

One of the most important traditions in our culture is the practice of respect or *respetu*, both in the way we live our lives and in the way we behave with one another. Our parents, our grandparents, and our forefathers taught us to *always* live with this guiding principle in mind. Through this benchmark of society, all aspect of our lives should naturally flow. Sadly, however, over the years since we started governing ourselves under our own constitution, this fundamental aspect of our culture has slowly and gradually been eroding. Unless we begin to reverse this erosion

in our respect for one another, our culture would suffer greatly. It will be compromised, as we have already started seeing in the way we practice politics and in the way we behave toward each other. Unless we begin to put a check on this dangerous turn in our culture, one where we begin losing respect for one another, the practice we used to have—respect for each other when we were growing up as children in the '50s, '60s and '70s—would be lost forever. And we would surely become a different people, without the lynchpin of our culture to hold us together.






They say that change is an inevitable part of life. And this is true. All living things change, or as the biologists would say, evolve. But there are some things in life that should always remain constant. Humanity's guiding principle that we should live

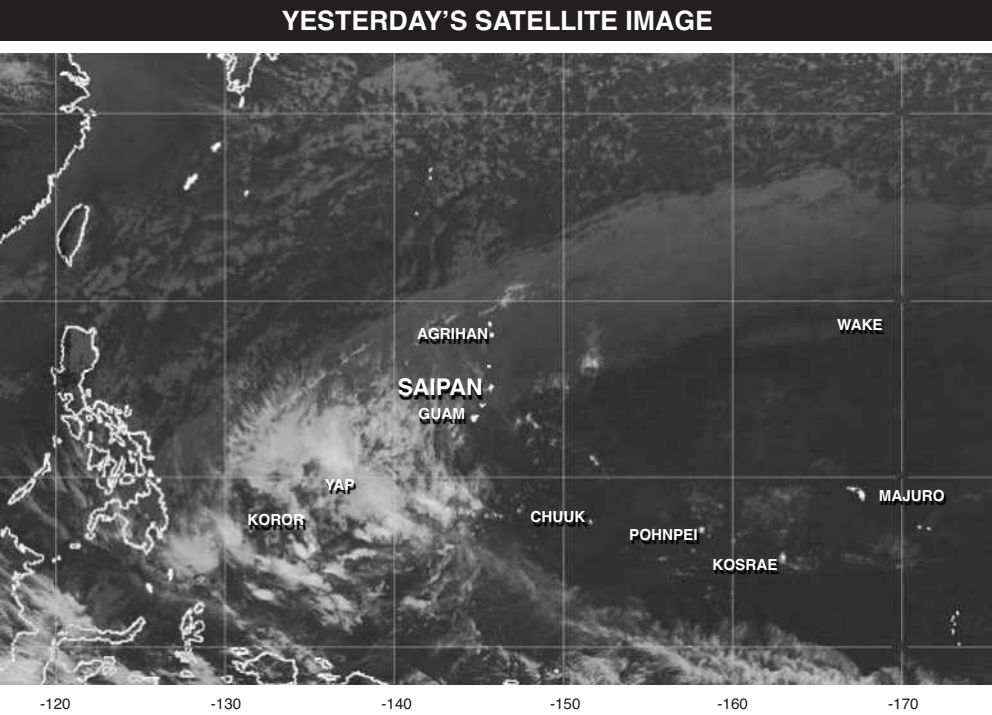
in peace and not destroy each other is one. The iconic scientist, Albert Einstein, once said that the three things in life that he cherished most and was always guided by were: beauty, kindness, and truth. If he were an islander, he would have added a fourth virtue: respect for one another. These basic principles of humanity, I believe, transcend space and time. I would urge everyone in the CNMI to please consider practicing, once again, our tradition of respect for one another. It will, I believe, go a long way toward enhancing once again the beauty of our island and the friendliness our people.

Jose S. Dela Cruz

Koblerville, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN				
TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Mostly cloudy and breezy with occasional light rain and areas of drizzle.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°



PICTURE TIME: 7:10 AM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2017
WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC BETWEEN EQUATOR AND 25N FROM 130E TO 180.

Adjusted the placement and timing of weather associated with the shear line, keeping drizzly rain over Tinian and Saipan and isolated showers for Guam and Rota through Wednesday. Then the GFS fires up some convection Wed night and Thursday, bringing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms to Guam and Rota. Shear lines are always difficult for the models, resulting in forecast uncertainty in that weather may vary greatly due to small shifts in the shear line. Perhaps the greatest certainty lies in the winds, which appear very likely to increase as the week progresses, with breezy conditions expected, possibly becoming windy at times late in the week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an up-dated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA ▼ ▲ °F		
Guam and Rota	Rain	82° / 76°
Palau	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorm	83° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	86° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	86° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE ▼ ▲ °F		
Auckland	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°
Beijing	Showers	48° / 25°
Hong Kong	Sunny	73° / 61°
Honolulu	Showers	82° / 69°
London	Partly Cloudy	54° / 45°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	79° / 56°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	84° / 72°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	79° / 57°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	86° / 69°
New York	Partly Cloudy	47° / 30°
Osaka	Sunny	55° / 45°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	55° / 43°
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	61° / 52°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	63° / 39°
Salem	Rain	60° / 33°
San Francisco	Sunny	42° / 13°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	52° / 32°
Tokyo	Sunny	55° / 41°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	49° / 30°



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
4:32 AM	LOW TIDE	0.23
10:46 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.89
5:15 PM	LOW TIDE	0.61
10:40 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.63

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Wednesday	6:42 AM	6:21 PM
Thursday	6:41 AM	6:21 PM
Friday	6:41 AM	6:21 PM
Saturday	6:40 AM	6:22 PM
Sunday	6:40 AM	6:22 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Wednesday	-	9:30 AM	10:01 PM
Thursday	-	10:10 AM	10:49 PM
Friday	-	10:50 AM	11:37 PM
Saturday	-	11:31 AM	-
Sunday	12:26 AM	12:13 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 10, 2017											
DEPARTURES						ARRIVALS					
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)						GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN					
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily			UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily		
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily			UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily		
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota			UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7		
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6			UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota		
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily			UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily		
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily			UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily		
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)						GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)					
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7			UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6		
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)						ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN					
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7			UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6		
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)						NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN					
DL297	4:10pm	7:05pm	Daily			DL298	10:20am	2:55pm	Daily		
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)						SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN					
TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily			LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily		
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1			ZE581	10:15am	3:35pm	Daily		
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily		
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily			OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7		
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily			TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily		
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily			OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6		
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily			OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily		
ZE582	4:25pm	8:35pm	Daily			7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily		
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)						BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN					
7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7			7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7		
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7			OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6		
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5			7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4		
SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)						JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN					
7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7			7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6		
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)						SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN					
3U8648	5:40am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7			3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7		
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)						BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN					
MU764	1:30am	6:50am	3, 5, 7			MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6		
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)						GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN					
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6			3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5		
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN					
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN			UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM		
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN		
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM			OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM			PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM		
PR1572	5:45am	7:45am	4, 7			UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM		
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM			PR1571	10:25pm	4:45am+1	3, 6		
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM			UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR			UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM		
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM								
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM								
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR								
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)						HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN					
UO43	1:40am	5:00am	1, 4, 6			OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN		
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4			OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN			OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN		
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7		
OZ628/723	3:50am	12:50pm	Daily via ICN			PR307/1571	6:20pm	4:45am+1	3, 6 via MNL		
PR1572/318	5:45am	12:20pm	4, 7 via MNL			UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6		
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM			UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM		
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM								

Business

Sears and Kmart remove some Trump products online

NEW YORK (AP)—Sears and Kmart have evicted “a very small number” of Trump-branded items from their on-line stores, but won’t specify how many and emphasize that hundreds of products are still available through their third-party online marketplaces.

It’s another sign of how companies are trying to tread a careful line, after President Donald Trump rebuked Nordstrom publicly on his Twitter account for deciding to stop selling his daughter Ivanka Trump’s clothing and accessories line. He said Nordstrom had treated his daughter “so unfairly.” Ethics experts saw the comment as a threat to companies that carry the brand and may be weighing the question of whether to keep doing so.

AP
In a Dec. 5, 2005 file photo, a shopper heads into the Sears department store at the Richmond Towne Center mall in Richmond Heights, Ohio.

Nordstrom had said in its announcement that the move was based on the brand’s falling sales over the past year, particularly in the last six months. A social media campaign called “Grab Your Wallet” has urged a boycott of stores that stock Ivanka Trump or Donald Trump products, which also include Amazon and Dillard’s.

Other companies that have been scaling back or dropping Trump merchandise are hoping to avoid a backlash or the boycott threats Nordstrom saw,

EU forecasts British economic slowdown during Brexit talks

BRUSSELS (AP)—The European Union expects Britain’s economy to slow down as the country negotiates its exit over the next couple of years, but forecasts an improvement for the bloc as a whole despite a range of uncertainties.

In its Winter Economic Forecast released Monday, the 28-nation EU said it predicts British economic growth will slump to 1.5 percent this year and 1.2 percent in 2018 from a recent high of 3.1 percent registered in 2014.

The wider EU, on the other hand, is expected to improve steadily, with growth picking up from 1.6 percent in 2014 to 1.8 percent this year and next.

“The European economy has proven resilient to the numerous shocks it has experienced over the past year,” said EU financial affairs chief Pierre Moscovici. “Growth is holding up and unemployment and deficits are heading lower.”

For Britain, though, the report said that “economic growth is projected to moderate in 2017 and weaken further in 2018,” largely coinciding with the period during which the country is to negotiate its divorce terms with the 27 other EU nations. It acknowledged that, for this year, the impact of the leave vote was expected to be less severe than originally thought but it kept

its 2018 decline intact.

Based on better-than-expected figures for Greece, Moscovici said he had good hopes that the debt-ridden country and its creditors would find a way next week to stave off another crisis. The sides disagree on whether more austerity reforms should be planned and how to ease Greece’s debt load.

An agreement is needed before Greece can get more bailout loans, which it needs before July.

Moscovici said he would be flying to Athens on Wednesday to help iron out the differences ahead of a meeting of eurozone finance ministers in Brussels next Monday.

The EU and the International Monetary Fund disagree on the country’s financial situation, with the Washington-based fund taking a darker view and saying its debts are unsustainable.

Moscovici insisted it was time to stand by Greece. “We cannot add, just like that, a crisis to a context of recovery in Greece and global uncertainty. Let’s be reasonable.”

Fears are also growing that, with President Donald Trump in office, help from the IMF for Greece could become more difficult. The U.S. is the IMF’s biggest donor and Trump has expressed doubts about Greece’s future in the euro.



issuing carefully crafted and brief statements if they address the matter at all. Belk Inc. said it will no longer carry Ivanka Trump items on its website, and QVC has said it no longer sells the merchandise. Macy’s Inc., which carries the Ivanka Trump brand, hasn’t responded to multiple queries by The Associated Press. And Lord &

Taylor has only said it currently carries the brand.

This tiptoeing is in response to politically active shoppers who are using their purchasing power to punish retailers or reward them based on their political beliefs, a trend that has become more high-profile with Donald Trump’s presidency.

Sears Holdings Inc.’s an-

nouncement Monday followed weekend reports that it had dropped 31 Trump products from its website. The company did not respond to queries then and referred questions for specifics back to its prepared statement.

“We, like all retailers, constantly add and remove products from our offerings,” Sears

spokesman Chris Brathwaite said on the company’s blog. “In this case, certain products were removed from our websites that included a very small number of Trump products. But any fair observer who searches for Trump or Ivanka Trump on Sears.com would find hundreds of products available for purchase.”

Trump on Yellen’s Fed, in his own words: A lot of sour notes

WASHINGTON (AP)—Since the early months of his presidential campaign, Donald Trump has occasionally expressed bluntly critical remarks about the Federal Reserve’s performance under Chair Janet Yellen.

Yellen was too “political,” Trump charged. Too willing to keep interest rates ultra-low for too long. Too inclined to favor overly strict regulation of banks.

At one point, Trump suggested that the Fed chair should be “ashamed of herself.”

With Yellen set to provide her semiannual testimony to Congress beginning Tuesday, here is a look at some of Trump’s observations:

Sept. 12, 2016, interview on CNBC

Trump: Interest rates are “staying at zero because (Yellen is) obviously political and doing what Obama wants her to do. ... The people that were hurt the worst are people that saved their money all their lives and thought they would live off their interest, and those people are getting just absolutely creamed. The ones that did it right. They saved their money and cut down on their mortgages and did all the things they did, everything exactly right, and now they are getting practically zero interest on the money they worked so hard for over 40 years.”

Background: During the campaign, Trump expressed support for the argument that savers and people who rely on fixed incomes were being hurt

by the Fed’s low-rate policies. In response, Yellen and other Fed officials said that the low rates were needed to battle the Great Recession and that stronger economic growth would eventually benefit everyone.

Sept. 12, 2016 interview on CNBC

Trump (on Yellen): “She’s keeping (rates) artificially low to get Obama retired. Watch what is going to happen afterwards. It is a very serious problem, and I think it is very political. I think she is very political and to a certain extent, I think she should be ashamed of herself because it is not supposed to be that way.”

Background: Trump, in the same interview with CNBC, further criticized Yellen for letting politics influence her rate decisions.

Sept. 26, 2016, Trump offers comments in his first presidential debate with Hillary Clinton

Trump: “We are in a big, fat, ugly bubble, and we had better be awfully careful, and we have a Fed that’s doing political things. This Janet Yellen of the Fed. The Fed is doing political ... by keeping the interest rates at this level. And believe me, the day Obama goes off and he leaves, and he goes out to the golf course for the rest of his life to play golf, when they raise interest rates, you are going to see some very bad things happen because the Fed is not doing their job. The Fed is being more political than Secretary Clinton.”

STOCK

PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

20,412.16

+142.79

0.70%

S&P

2,328.25

+12.15

0.52%

NASDAQ

5,763.96

+29.83

0.52%

EXCHANGE RATES

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7596	Russian Ruble	58.08
Australian Dollar	1.3025	Singapore Dollar	1.419
British Pound	0.7977	Japanese Yen	113.516
Canadian Dollar	1.3055	Malaysian Ringgit	4.448
Chinese Yuan	6.8739	New Zealand Dollar	1.3917
Euro	0.942	Philippine Peso	49.84
		Taiwan Dollar	30.747
		Thailand Baht	34.98

Nation

Desperate immigrants risk perilous winter trek to Canada

TORONTO (AP)—After he was denied asylum in the U.S., Seidu Mohammed's fear of being deported to his native Ghana, where he believes he'd be killed or jailed, became so great that he set out in brutal winter conditions to cross illegally into Canada.

Mohammed and his friend lost all their fingers to frostbite after a 10-hour trek across fields of waist-high snow in sub-zero temperatures. Despite their injuries, the two men say they now feel safe. They're part of a small but growing number of immigrants risking the northern border crossing.

"God blessed Canada with good people," said Mohammed, 24. "I see the difference between Canada and the United States."

In Manitoba, which borders Minnesota and North Dakota, groups that specialize in helping refugees say the pace of arrivals has quickened since Donald Trump became president and banned travel from seven majority-Muslim countries. Refugees who spoke with The Associated Press cited Trump's order and anti-Muslim campaign rhetoric as the main reasons for going north.

Rita Chahal, executive director of Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council, said her group normally sees 50 to 60

refugees from the U.S. each year. But The Royal Canadian Mounted Police said that more than 40 have been picked up at the border near Emerson, Manitoba, in just the last two weekends.

Chahal said most are natives of Somalia, which was in Trump's travel ban, but also from Ghana, Djibouti, Nigeria and Burundi. They are making the trip at a dangerous time.

"This is one of the coldest seasons in the coldest parts of our country," said Ghezae Hagos, a counselor at Welcome Place in Winnipeg, Manitoba, who deals with refugees upon arrival. He said that on Feb. 4, five Somalis said they walked for five hours in the fields in minus-30 Celsius (minus-22 F) weather.

The increase at the Manitoba crossing is likely related to Minnesota's status as the leading U.S. landing spot for Somali immigrants.

Marc Prokosch, an immigration attorney in Minneapolis, said it's been growing more difficult for Somalis to get asylum in recent years, mostly because they lack documents to prove their identity.

There is also fear of deportation. U.S. Customs and Immigration Enforcement said 90 Somalis were deported from across the U.S. on Jan. 25.



Bashir Yussuf, a Somali refugee who spent three years in San Diego and the last two months in Minneapolis, crossed the border Feb. 5 with two others. Yussuf, 28, was ordered deported in 2015. He had remained in the U.S. under monitoring, hoping to get a favorable ruling to stay.

"But when Trump took

over, eventually my hope died," he said.

He called the trip "the hardest thing I've ever done," describing a three-hour journey over ice and snow.

"I even jumped two rivers over snow. You go down deep," he said. "My life was in danger in many ways."

While the number of Il-

^{AP}
In this Feb. 9, 2017, file photo, an American flag and a Canadian flag fly above Maple Leaf Motel's office in Emerson, Manitoba.

legal crossings to Canada is dwarfed by the hundreds of thousands from Mexico on the southern border, the numbers are increasing.

In Quebec, the number has tripled in one year to 1,280 in the current fiscal year, which runs through March. Illegal crossings to British Columbia doubled to 652 last year. In Manitoba, the RCMP intercepted 68 people three years ago but 430 this fiscal year.

Near Emerson—about 80 miles north of Grand Forks, North Dakota, on Interstate 29—officials on the U.S. side have done enough rescues in the past month that Aaron Heitke sees it as a humanitarian issue.

Heitke, the Border Patrol's Grand Forks sector commander, said he's contacted consulates for some African countries asking them to spread information about the hazards of a Minnesota winter.

"Family groups with small children that, if someone hadn't gone out and picked

them up, they'd have frozen to death," Heitke said.

Those fleeing the U.S. avoid border posts because of an agreement—called Safe Third Country—that requires migrants to request refugee protection in the first safe country they arrive in. That means migrants arriving at a Canadian border post are rejected and told to apply in the U.S.

An opposition party lawmaker grilled Canada's immigration minister in Parliament on Thursday, saying the agreement discourages refugees from crossing at an official border checkpoint. New Democrat lawmaker Jenny Kwan also asked the minister whether he still believes the U.S. is offering a high degree of protection for asylum seekers.

Immigration Minister Ahmed Hussen, himself once a refugee from Somalia, stressed that Canada is welcoming to refugees. Canada has taken in almost 40,000 Syrian refugees, triple the U.S. intake of Syrians in 2016.

But Hussen said the agreement with the U.S. will remain because it "provides an orderly system of managing asylum claims."

Evacuees might not go home until dam spillway is repaired

OROVILLE, Calif. (AP)—Helicopters dropped giant rock-filled sandbags into place Monday to shore up a California reservoir that had threatened to breach its banks and unleash a 30-foot wall of water, but officials said an evacuation order covering nearly 200,000 people would stay in place until they are sure it's safe to return home.

Officials defended their decision to issue the hasty order to abandon homes downstream from the nation's tallest dam, about 150 miles northeast of San Francisco. They said it was necessary for public safety after engineers spotted a hole in an emergency spillway, which they feared could have failed within an hour.

The water level of the massive reservoir known as Lake Oroville dropped Monday, slightly easing fears of a catastrophic collapse. But with more storms on the horizon, crews raced to fortify heavily eroded soils where water flowed over the edge of the reservoir and carved huge channels in the earth as it gushed toward the Feather River.

Massive evacuation

The evacuations of more than 200,000 people living below Lake Oroville were ordered Sunday after authorities warned that a failure of the emergency spillway could send a 30-foot wall of water into the communities.



The acting head of the state's Department of Water Resources said he did not know if anything had gone wrong and was unaware of a 2005 report that recommended reinforcing the earthen emergency spillway with concrete for just such an event. The spillway had never

been used in the dam's nearly 50 years of operation, and it was not near capacity when it began to fail.

"I'm not sure anything went wrong," Bill Croyle said. "This was a new, never-happened-before event."

Croyle and the local sheriff sought to reassure the public that downstream communities were safe until water began spilling over the lake's edge Sunday and a chocolate-colored torrent began chewing through the slope below it.

The Department of Water Resources said conditions were stable at noon and then tweeted an evacuation order at 4:45 p.m. warning of a possible failure within the hour, saying "this is not a drill."

Chaos ensued as anxious residents rushed to pack up their families and abandon several communities in Butte, Yuba and Sutter Counties. The flat northern Central Valley is known mainly for its abundant agriculture, which is fed by dammed-up rivers that tumble down through the Sierra Nevada foothills.

It took some people seven

hours to travel to evacuation centers that should have been an hour away, said Chico Councilman Andrew Coolidge, who visited with evacuees in packed shelters in his city.

Butte County Sheriff Kory Honea insisted the evacuation had been accomplished in a "fairly timely fashion" and a "fairly orderly manner."

Patrick Miner of Live Oak said he and his family in a caravan of four cars returned home after driving back roads for two hours and feared they would run out of gas. They didn't bother trying to fuel up because lines were hours long at gas pumps.

"People were just panicking, honking and yelling at each other," he said. "I just got nervous and decided to hunker down. It was pretty scary."

More than 500 Butte County jail inmates were transferred to Alameda County Jail farther south, Honea said.

Honea could not estimate when people will be able to return home, but said he's working on a "repopulation plan" to let residents return to areas least at risk of flooding.

Storm wallops Northeast, where 'Stay home' is message

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)—Plow trucks and shovellers in the Northeast attacked the region's latest winter storm, which dumped 30 inches of snow on a Maine town, made roads unsafe and immobilized millions of residents Monday.

The storm was most active from New York to Maine, where blizzards shut down towns and left more than 2 feet of snow in many areas. Strong winds created problems in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, where a tree branch crashed through car windshield in Mechanicburg, killing the driver.

Many Maine residents will be unable to dig out until Tuesday morning, as the daylong snowfall only began to let up Monday evening.

Some schools already had canceled school for Tuesday, and more snow was forecast for Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts on Wednesday.

In Hopkinton, New Hampshire, attorney Matt Lane said he was a bit surprised by how much snow had fallen.

"Up until last week we didn't have very much; we

had a little but not like this. And now suddenly, you can't see over the snowbanks when you're backing out of the driveway, and we've been running the snow blower 24-7," he said.

Snow totals in Maine included 30 inches in Cary, near the Canadian border; 27 inches in Nobleboro; 25 inches in Starks; and 20 inches in Harpswell.

In New Hampshire, up to 14 inches fell in Ossipee, and a foot covered Berlin. Scattered power outages were reported, and the forecast of strong winds and coastal flooding remained a concern.

Several crashes were reported between Sunday and Monday. Schools around the region delayed or canceled classes, including in Boston and some areas of New York state.

Just north of New York City, a Metro-North train struck a fallen tree, damaging the train and hampering service for hours, but causing no injuries. About 100 passengers were onboard. And in Queens, the canopy of a gas station was ripped down as winds gusted up to 60 mph in some areas.

Asia

North Korean missile test may have been big step forward

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Beyond the usual, lofty propaganda, North Korea's test of a new intermediate-range ballistic missile contains an important, potentially worrying development.

The country's jubilant young dictator, Kim Jong Un, said the missile provides the country with another nuclear attack capability.

Sunday's launch—the first major North Korean challenge for U.S. President Donald Trump—is drawing intense scrutiny from outside weapons experts because of North Korea's claim to have used solid fuel.

If true, it would be a big step forward in North Korea's quest to boost its ability to attack the United States and its close allies, South Korea and Japan. Instead of relying on missiles that have to be fueled on a fixed launch pad, North Korea's military could drive the new missiles anywhere



AP
In this Sunday, Feb. 12, 2017, photo distributed on Monday, Feb. 13, 2017, by the North Korean government, "Pukguksong-2" is launched at an undisclosed location in North Korea.

an defense official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of department rules, also said that U.S. and South Korean military surveillance equipment showed it probably used solid fuel.

North Korean media quoted Kim Jong Un as saying that North Korea's rocket industry "has radically turned" from liquid-fuel engines to high thrust solid fuel-powered ones.

PUKGUKSONG-2

North Korean state media said the missile launched Sunday was a surface-to-surface "Pukguksong-2" that can carry nuclear warheads. It is likely to be an upgraded version of the submarine-launched missile named "Pukguksong" launched in August.

South Korea's military said the latest missile flew about 500 kilometers (310 miles) before dropping into international waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan. North Korea said the missile made a high-altitude flight because of security worries in neighboring countries.

If the missile was fired at a normal angle, it could have flown farther. Some analysts say its maximum range could be up to 3,000 kilometers (1,870 miles), while others put it at 1,200 kilometers (750 miles).



ASIAN BRIEFS

Filipinos in Germany are most generous long-distance lovers

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Filipinos in Germany may be far from home, but their loved ones are near to their hearts on Valentine's Day. Money transfer company WorldRemit analyzed remittances from Filipinos abroad and found those in Germany were the most generous, sending home on average \$32.5 more than usual around Valentine's Day last year. Following closely were Filipinos in Norway who sent on average \$24 more, and in New Zealand, who remitted on average \$12.5 more during the week around Valentine's Day, compared to the amount they sent in the previous week. Comparative government data isn't available. Central bank statistics show Filipinos in the U.S. send the most money home overall, followed by those in Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates.

Abe says he sought common goals, not differences with Trump

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe says he stressed common goals, not differences, during his weekend meetings with U.S. President Donald Trump, whom he called a "good listener." Abe returned Monday from the meetings in Washington and a round

of golf with Trump at one of his courses in Florida. Abe said on NHK public television that his main goal was to show the world an unshakable Japan-U.S. alliance. He said the two leaders had frank discussions about Russia, China, North Korea and other key issues while they traveled together from Washington to Florida. Abe said he was relieved that Trump did not ask Japan to pay more for U.S. troops based there, and said the two leaders agreed to expand Japan's military role in their alliance.

Taliban suicide attack targeting police at rally kills 13

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)—A suicide bomber plowed a motorcycle into a group of police escorting a protest rally in the eastern Pakistani city of Lahore on Monday, killing at least 13 people and wounding nearly 60 in an attack claimed by a breakaway Taliban faction. The blast ripped through the crowd of hundreds of pharmacists, who were protesting new amendments to a law governing drug sales. Six police officers, including a former provincial counterterrorism chief, were among those killed, police said. Sameer Ahmad, the Lahore deputy commissioner, said at least 13 people were killed and 58 wounded, including nine who were in critical condition.

and fire them at will from mobile launchers.

Here's a look at Sunday's launch and what it means for security on an already tense Korean Peninsula.

"MODERN FUEL"

The fuel in solid-fuel rockets is already loaded inside, which can shorten launch preparation times, increase the weapon's mobility and make it harder for outsiders to detect what's happening before liftoff.

Most of North Korea's missiles currently use liquid propellant, which usually needs to be added on a launch pad before the weapon is fired. The rockets North Korea has used

for satellite launches in recent years, which were condemned by the U.N. as tests of banned long-range missile technology, relied on liquid fuel.

"Liquid fuel is like a technology from the 1960s and '70s, while solid fuel is a modern fuel for missiles," said Lee Choon Geun, an analyst from South Korea's state-funded Science and Technology Policy Institute. "That's why we think their latest launch (with solid fuel) is a serious development."

Before Sunday's test, analysts thought North Korea's solid-fuel weapons were limited to a submarine-launched ballistic missile that the coun-

try test-fired last August and short-range KN-02 missiles.

This latest test is important because, if confirmed, North Korea would have a missile that could be launched anywhere from a ground-based mobile vehicle. While submarines are also a stealthy way to do that, North Korea doesn't have enough of them. There are doubts that the KN-02 missile, whose range is about 120 kilometers (75 miles), can carry nuclear warheads.

North Korea's claim couldn't be independently confirmed, but Lee said video and photos of the launch appear to show that the missile used solid fuel. A South Kore-

Security Council strongly condemns North Korea missile test

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. Security Council strongly condemned North Korea late Monday over its latest ballistic missile launches and warned of "further significant measures" if Pyongyang doesn't stop nuclear and missile testing.

A council statement agreed to by all 15 members followed strong condemnation by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres of the latest launch and U.S. President Donald Trump's pledge to deal with North Korea "very strongly."

The Security Council condemned Saturday's launch and a previous test Oct. 19, saying North Korea's activities to develop its nuclear weapons delivery systems violate U.N. sanctions and

increase tensions. It called on all U.N. members "to redouble their efforts" to implement U.N. sanctions.

North Korea has repeatedly flouted six Security Council resolutions demanding an end to its nuclear and ballistic missile activities and imposing increasing tougher sanctions.

The latest missile test is seen as an implicit challenge to Trump, who has vowed a tough line on North Korea but has yet to release a strategy for dealing with a country whose nuclear ambitions have bedeviled U.S. leaders for decades.

"North Korea is a big, big problem and we will deal with that very strongly," Trump said at a joint news conference Monday with Canadian Prime Minister Justin

Trudeau.

Nikki Haley, his U.N. ambassador, said in a statement later: "We call on all members of the Security Council to use every available resource to make it clear to the North Korean regime—and its enablers—that these launches are unacceptable."

"It is time to hold North Korea accountable—not with our words, but with our actions," she said.

There was no indication of what "actions" the Trump administration has in mind, and Ukraine's U.N. ambassador, Volodymyr Yelchenko, the current council president, and Japanese Ambassador Koro Bessho wouldn't comment on possible "further significant measures."

Those same words were

used in the last Security Council statement on the unsuccessful Oct. 17 missile test by North Korea. That was followed by the latest sanctions resolution Nov. 30 targeting North Korea's hard currency revenues by placing a cap on coal exports, cutting them by at least 62 percent or by an estimated \$800 million.

The council statement issued Monday was almost exactly the same as the one adopted Oct. 17—a practice that makes it much easier for members to reach quick agreement.

Guterres called the latest launch "a further troubling violation" of council resolutions and urged North Korea to comply with its international obligations, U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said.

World

Colombia keeps cocaine from spoiling Valentine's Day flowers

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—Cocaine is probably the last thing most people think about when buying roses.

But every year, police and growers in Colombia must work around the clock to make sure that the romance of Valentine's Day isn't spoiled by the drug, the nation's other major export along with flowers.

As much as 330,000 pounds (150 metric tons) of flowers leave Colombia on 30-plus jumbo cargo planes daily starting in late January, presenting an opportunity for the country's ingenious drug cartels to penetrate the frenzied, over-worked chain of suppliers and stash drugs amid the roses.

"Without a doubt we're a target," said Augusto Solano, president of the Colombian flower exporters' association.

Security protocols that the flower industry developed with police begin the moment that refrigerated trucks carrying rose buds depart dozens of flower farms dotting the waterlogged savannah surrounding Colombia's capital. Once the flowers are inside the airport, 100 police offices equipped with 15 drug-sniffing dogs and electronic scan-



ners inspect each shipment.

Last year, police said they found almost 200 pounds (90 kilograms) of cocaine hidden in flower boxes.

"We have to guarantee that our flower exports aren't con-

taminated by criminal gangs," Col. Julio Triana said as he and his drug-sniffing Labrador retriever walked through the refrigerated warehouse where flowers are kept before being loaded onto cargo planes.

Colombia's flower industry took off in the early 1990s when the U.S. Congress passed a law eliminating tariffs on goods from Andean drug-producing nations in a bid to encourage legal exports.

That Colombia's criminals now train their eyes on flower shipments as a way to smuggle drugs into the U.S. is a sign of just how much the industry

AP
In this Jan. 30, 2017 photo, an anti-narcotics police officer inspect flowers at the El Dorado Airport, in Bogota, Colombia.

has blossomed. It is now is the world's second-largest cut flower exporter, after the Netherlands, and the top supplier to the U.S.

The season before Valentine's Day is the busiest time of the year for Colombia's growers, when the 130,000 people employed at hundreds of flower farms work non-stop to ship some 500 million stems, mostly to the United States but other parts of the world as well.

"Right now there's not a single rose available," said Solano.

But with competitors from Kenya and Ecuador making inroads, the industry isn't taking its leadership for granted and works hard to keep out smuggled drugs.

"It requires a big effort because if another country finds drugs they can ban flower imports from Colombia and that would be disastrous," Solano said.

Israel leader's White House trip clouded in uncertainty

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's prime minister heads to Washington this week for a high-profile meeting with President Donald Trump that suddenly is clouded in uncertainty.

After embracing Israel's hard-line nationalist right throughout his presidential campaign, Trump appears to have softened some of his positions on key issues since taking office.

Although Wednesday's meeting is expected to be much warmer than Netanyahu's famously tense encounters with former President Barack Obama, the Israeli leader will still need to tread with caution on sensitive issues like Israeli settlement construction and the conflict with the Palestinians, Iran and the war in Syria.

"It is a very important meeting. It is a new president," said Sallai Meridor, a former Israeli ambassador to Washington. The "positive thing" is that Trump's policies are still not set, he said, "so there is an opportunity to listen and to develop and to impact the strategy that is being developed in the United States."

In dealing with such a divisive president, Netanyahu will also face some potential pitfalls. Key constituencies, including congressional Democrats and many American Jews, oppose Trump's policies, while at home he is un-

der pressure from his hard-line allies to push for policies that Trump may not support.

Ahead of the visit, Netanyahu said he would handle ties with the U.S., Israel's closest and most important ally, in a "prudent manner," but he steered clear of specifics.

"The alliance between Israel and America has always been extremely strong. It's about to get even stronger. President Trump and I see eye to eye on the dangers emanating from the region, but also on the opportunities," Netanyahu said Monday as he boarded a plane to Washington.

Malcolm Hoenlein, a Jewish-American leader who has close ties with both Netanyahu and White House officials, said Netanyahu should set modest goals for his first working meeting with the new president. He said the objective should be to establish a good working relationship in order to tackle concrete issues down the road.

"What I hope will come out of the meeting is this kind of understanding, putting the foundation very firmly in place," he said.

Here are some of the issues that are likely to come up:

SETTLEMENTS AND THE PALESTINIANS

After repeatedly clashing with

Obama for eight years, capped by a U.N. Security Council resolution condemning Israeli settlements, Netanyahu seemed relieved by Trump's arrival.

Trump's campaign platform made no mention of a Palestinian state, and his inner circle included allies of the West Bank settler movement. The connections were so strong that a delegation of settler leaders was invited to Trump's inauguration.

Netanyahu responded by approving construction of more than 6,000 new settler homes in the West Bank and east Jerusalem—occupied territories claimed by the Palestinians—and allowing parliament to pass a law retroactively legalizing some 4,000 settlement homes built on private Palestinian land. His political allies have urged him to go even further, suggesting he abandon the goal of a two-state solution with the Palestinians, step up settlement construction and even consider annexing parts of the West Bank. Such ideas would have been unthinkable during the Obama years.

"All the Cabinet ministers oppose a Palestinian state, including Netanyahu," said Gilad Erdan, a Cabinet minister and member of Netanyahu's Likud Party.

But the hard-line euphoria

may be premature. After initially greeting Israel's settlement announcements with a shrug, Trump appears to be having second thoughts. In an interview with a pro-Netanyahu Israeli daily on Friday, Trump said: "I am not somebody that believes that going forward with these settlements is a good thing for peace."

Netanyahu may use the meeting to seek "understandings" as to what sort of construction will be tolerated. Backing from Trump could also help him fend off the pressure from his hard-line rivals.

THE U.S. EMBASSY

The U.S., like virtually all other countries, maintains its embassy in Tel Aviv due to the conflicting claims to east Jerusalem.

Israel claims all of the city as its eternal capital while the Palestinians seek the eastern sector, captured by Israel in 1967, as their future capital. The status of east Jerusalem is especially sensitive because it is home to Jewish, Christian and Muslim holy sites.

Trump took office vowing to scrap decades of U.S. policy and move the embassy to Jerusalem. But in recent weeks, he has been noncommittal, saying only that he is studying the issue.

In Mexico, pro wrestler enjoys drawing boos with Trump flag

MEXICO CITY (AP)—He's the guy Mexicans love to hate: An American pro wrestler has become a sensation in Mexico City by adopting the ring persona of a flamboyant Donald Trump supporter.

Sam Polinsky, aka Sam Adonis, revels in being a target for "luche libre" fans who use him as a stand-in for the new U.S. president, whose pledges to step up deportations, build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border and lure jobs back to the U.S. have earned the anger of Mexicans like no president before.

The crowd at the capital's Arena Mexico erupts in screams, boos, jeers and sarcastic whistling when Adonis appears wearing a Trumpesque orange tan, his blond locks streaming from a head band and waving an American flag emblazoned with a photo of Trump.

"Out! Out!" the crowd screams.

The native of Pittsburgh came to Mexico last year and the Trump campaign gave him the unparalleled chance to play the ultimate ring villain.

"Right now, I would be considered by the Mexican public as the most malicious bad guy they have," Polinsky said with a smile before a match Sunday that—spoiler

alert—he predictably lost.

Polinsky is happy to endure the boos in pro wrestling's high-camp show of good vs. evil—and Mexico's "luche libre" has the added long tradition of foreign villains.

"I'm very proud of the fact that I am able to evoke a genuine hatred, a genuine hate which is generally lost in professional wrestling due to the fact that most people realize that it is what it is—it's more along the lines of a show," Polinsky said.

There is little doubt he gets a rise out of the crowd.

Wrestling fan Gerardo Romero was among those booing Sam Adonis. "There is a lot of ill will for Trump's character, and because of that every time they hit him, we enjoy it," Romero said.

But it's all about the show, as Trump himself knew during his involvement with U.S. pro wrestling in the 1990s and 2000s.

"It's no different than Spiderman or Batman. You need a very, very bad villain in order to invoke the sympathy for the hero," Polinsky said. "As I see it, the more malicious, the more evil I can be for the Mexican public, the happier the Mexican public are when they see their Mexican heroes destroy the enemy."

Focus

Pentagon launches effort to solve a baffling WWII mystery



This undated file photo provided by the U.S. Navy shows the USS Turner on the East River in New York City near the Williamsburg Bridge. AP

By **CHRIS CAROLA**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—The Pentagon is launching efforts to solve a baffling World War II mystery: whether dozens of U.S. sailors listed as missing from a ship disaster were actually recovered and buried all along as unknowns in a New York cemetery.

More than 130 victims of the USS Turner's 1944 explosion and sinking near New York Harbor are still officially missing. But WWII researcher Ted Darcy found papers last year indicating at least four of them were buried as unknowns in a Long Island military cemetery. He believes the rest could be there too.

After The Associated Press initially reported on Darcy's findings in November, the Pentagon office responsible for recovering and identifying the nation's war dead said only that the records that could confirm exactly how many of the Turner's sailors are buried in the cemetery were missing.

But in recent days, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency said it is now "taking the steps to send out inquiries and conduct archival research" to try to locate

the files associated with the Turner unknowns buried in the cemetery in Farmingdale on Long Island.

Darcy and loved ones of the missing crew members hope that the records could be found, identifications made and that the long-lost remains of the Turner be reburied in marked gravesites with full military honors.

"I'd like to see if we can have closure on this, find out who's in the graves," said Richard Duffy, a 61-year-old retired mechanic from Ballston Spa, New York, who was named after his fallen uncle.

The Turner, a 10-month-old Navy destroyer, sank off Sandy Hook, New Jersey, after a series of internal explosions on Jan. 3, 1944. The Navy never determined what caused the initial blast, but an inquiry found that munitions were being handled below deck around the time of the first explosion. Half of the nearly 300 men on board survived, but scores of others were killed and listed as missing. Some remains were recovered from the sunken wreckage during the yearlong salvage operation, but an exact number remains unknown.

Margaret Duffy Sickles was not quite 5 years old when her family in Whitehall, New York, received word that her brother, 18-year-old Fireman 1st Class Richard Duffy, was among the missing. After reading the AP story in November, she sought the help of New York congressional delegation, hoping it could persuade the Pentagon to make an attempt to identify the remains buried on Long Island.

"I will work with the families to cut through red tape and ensure that the Department of Defense's POW/MIA Accounting Agency does everything it can to try to properly identify these brave Americans," said U.S. Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer, a Democrat.

Sickles, of Kingston, said identifying any of the remains after 73 years would be difficult but not impossible given advances with DNA and other technology.

"It's quite possible my brother isn't even among any of those" buried on Long Island, she told the AP. "Nevertheless, it was something we didn't know about until this story came out."

Pentagon officials say the process of identifying the re-

mains of unknown service members must meet strict protocols, and in the case of the Turner, it can't begin until certain key documents, including those containing a sailor's dental information, are found. They noted that the effort is also hampered by the lack of records for any of the 70 unknowns buried at the Long Island cemetery.

Todd S. Livick Sr., a the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency spokesman, said in an email that the agency's researchers have spent years searching for files pertaining to the cemetery's burials of unknowns, but so far they've not been located.

"Without these sources of information, DPAA cannot determine whether multiple individuals were buried in the casket or construct a case for disinterment," he said.

According to Darcy, a retired career Marine from Locust Grove, Virginia, who specializes in MIA cases, the Agency hasn't done enough for the fallen Turner sailors.

"These guys died for their country," he said. "They deserve to be buried properly and the families deserve the closure."



This Nov. 11, 2016, file photo shows a gravestone with the inscription UNKNOWN U.S. SAILOR at Long Island National Cemetery in Farmingdale, N.Y. AP

Good Housekeeping

By DANA CIZMAS
PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

Some foods go together like a wink and a smile — peanut butter and jelly, champagne and strawberries, wine and cheese — while others are somewhat more unconventional, even dubious, but just as delicious. You just need an open mind and eager palate.

“Rules are meant to be broken,” said Eric Wallace, executive chef at Pittsburgh’s Monterey Bay Fish Grotto, even when it comes to food and flavor combinations. Coming up with unusual yet tasty food pairings requires a lot of brainstorming, creativity and experimenting.

There’s a long list of ingredients at our fingertips, and possibilities are endless. “There’s no limit to what you can come up with,” Wallace said.

Not everyone is adventurous when it comes to food, but drawing from past experiences and deciding what one likes and dislikes is helpful. Also, it provides a good starting point for trying creative dishes and mixing flavors to bring another dimension to a plate, said Don Winkie, chef at Pittsburgh’s Eighty Acres Kitchen & Bar.

Additionally, a lot of trial and error goes into creating a dish that highlights peculiar tastes. “We make a lot of mistakes,” said Sarah Walsh, owner of Pittsburgh’s Caffè d’Amore. Walsh’s lavender lemonade, one of the most popular drinks on the shop’s menu, was coined out of an initial mistake of making too much of a too weak lavender syrup that she didn’t want to waste.

Pairing beets with chocolate, for instance, might seem unusual at first glance, but it works beautifully in a cake. “It gives an extra bit of complexity to something that’s already amazing,” said Ally Slayden, baker and owner of Pittsburgh’s The Butterwood Bake Consortium. The beets add an earthiness and make the cake dense and moist.

Chocolate and bacon make a wonderful pairing that’s getting more mainstream and showcases the playfulness of sweet and salty.

In terms of frozen treats, cucumber ice cream might sound intimidating, but it’s refreshing and creamy and provides a cleanliness without being icy, said Katie Heldstab, co-owner of Leona’s Ice Cream Sandwiches.

Other odd pairings are dill pickles in ice cream, black sesame ice cream and even ice cream with capers and salmon.



Odd couples:

The art of food pairing

On the savory spectrum, Winkie favors a dish of braised boar with orange juice, orange zest, cumin and oregano to which he also adds onions and raisins for an extra level of spice and sweetness.

He also likes mixing fruit sauces such as mango with seafood and tossing in some chipotle for heat and roasted garlic for smokiness.

Cheese and seafood also can produce wonders. Although the combination might not appeal to some, pairing Parmigiano-Reggiano with shellfish or blue cheese with Dover sole fish can turn out stellar results.

Flavor, texture, spice and balance are important aspects to keep in mind when mixing unusual flavors. “All of it goes into play,” Wallace said. “It’s like a piece of music.”

Ingredients such as olive oil or ricotta cheese also can add texture and complexity. For instance, they can make a cake moist and sturdy.

We eat with our eyes first because the way a dish looks influences if we will try it, Heldstab said, so color is key.

In addition, avoid combining ingredients that are too different or too similar. Turmeric and ricotta cheese would not bring anything to each other, Slayden said. Similarly, pork

belly and oysters might be too mushy, said Winkie, but crispy bacon and oysters might be wonderful.

Some combos such as oranges and ketchup just don’t work together. Grapefruit ends up being bitter in ice cream, said Heldstab, while fresh ruby red pomegranate arils turn an ugly brown color when mixed with cream. Also off-limits are anchovies in cake. “There’s a line that you don’t cross,” Slayden added.

It’s best to see items that complement each other. The playfulness of salty and sweet enhances a cake or a drink, while crunchy and chewy ingredients offset the creaminess in ice creams.

In terms of proportions, “there is no true formula,” Wallace said. But it’s paramount to taste, so adjust spices and seasonings as you go along.

Unique flavor combinations allow a cook to learn and grow to be creative and daring. “Food isn’t as intimidating as some people might think it is,” Winkie said. “It can be fun to be surprised by food,” Slayden added.

At the end of the day, food is extremely subjective, Wallace said, and one’s palate is the ultimate judge. “Art is in the eye of the beholder,” he added.

...

COCONUT SPARERIBS

PG tested

The spareribs are intensely flavored showcasing a perfect balance between sweet and savory. They are messy but incredibly tasty.

1 cup Chinese rice wine
1/2 cup soy sauce
6 garlic cloves, minced
2 tablespoons grated fresh ginger
1/2 cup coconut nectar
1/4 cup hoisin sauce
1 tablespoon Chinese five-spice powder
Freshly ground black pepper, divided
2 racks St. Louis-style spareribs

Salt to taste

Whisk together rice wine, soy sauce, garlic and ginger in a large bowl. Set aside to marinate for 10 minutes.

Add coconut nectar and hoisin sauce, whisking until they are completely dissolved. Add five-spice powder and 1 teaspoon pepper, and whisk to ensure all ingredients are well combined.

Rinse spareribs in cold water and pat dry with paper towels. Season generously with salt and pepper, then place in a container that is large enough to hold marinade and ribs in a single layer.

Pour marinade over ribs and cover with plastic wrap. Marinate in the refrigerator overnight.

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Place ribs on a lightly greased broiling tray or sheet pan with sides. Roast for 40 to 50 minutes, basting with marinade 2 or 3 times, or until tender and cooked through.

To serve, allow ribs to cool for 5 minutes and then, using a sharp knife, cut between each rib bone to separate them.

Makes 4 servings.

■ Adapted from “Cooking With Coconut” by Ramin Ganeshram, (Storey Publishing; December 2016; \$18.95)

CHOCOLATE BEET CAKE

PG tested

This dense and gooey cake has a subtle and pleasant hint of beets, and is topped with delicate pears.

1 tablespoon butter
3 cups all-purpose flour, plus more for the pan
1 1/3 cups cocoa powder
4 teaspoons baking powder
2 1/2 cups sugar
6 eggs
1/2 vanilla bean pod, seeds scraped out
1 pound cooked beets, pureed in a blender or food processor
1 1/4 cups vegetable oil
2 pears, cored and thinly

Chocolate Beet Cake, Masala Margarita and Coconut Spareribs.

TNS

sliced

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Butter and flour a 10-inch springform cake pan.

In a large bowl, combine flour, cocoa powder and baking powder. Set aside.

In another large bowl, beat sugar and eggs using an electric hand-mixer until well combined. Add vanilla seeds and beat again. Add beet puree and mix well. Add oil and mix until combined.

Gradually, add dry ingredients to wet mix and beat well until smooth.

Pour mixture into pan. Place pear slices around the edges of the cake and bake for 55 to 65 minutes or until the middle has risen but still feels a little gooey. Remove from oven and allow to cool in the pan.

When cake has cooled, remove it from pan and serve.

Makes 1 10-inch cake.

— Adapted from “The Yoga Kitchen: Over 100 Vegetarian Recipes to Energize the Body, Balance the Mind and Make for a Happier You” by Kimberly Parsons, (Quadrille; Jan. 3, 2017; \$24.99)

MASALA MARGARITA

PG tested

This recipe is an adaptation of the margarita served at the restaurant, Masala Library, in Mumbai. The spices and anise liquor lend an aromatic twist to the classic version.

1 tablespoon sugar
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 slice of lime
1 star anise
1 cinnamon stick
1 rosemary sprig
2 cardamom pods
1 ounce anise liquor
Ice cubes
2 ounces tequila
2 teaspoons caramel syrup
Juice from half a lime, optional

In a small bowl, mix sugar and cinnamon. Rub the rim of a glass with the slice of lime. Dip the rim of the glass in cinnamon and sugar mix.

In a glass, mix star anise, cinnamon, rosemary, cardamom and anise liquor, and allow to infuse for 10 minutes.

Add a couple of ice cubes to the same glass. Pour tequila and caramel into glass.

Strain infused mixture into tequila and caramel mix. Add lemon juice, if desired, mix and serve.

Makes 1 cocktail.

■ Adapted from Masala Library in Mumbai, India

Life & Style

Adele pays tribute to Beyonce at Grammys

By **DAVID BAUDER**
AP TELEVISION WRITER

In an extraordinary moment between the music industry's top female artists, Adele beat Beyonce for three of the top Grammy Awards—then said her competitor deserved at least one of them.

The Grammys featured memorable performances by the likes of Bruno Mars and A Tribe Called Quest, big victories by Chance the Rapper and David Bowie, and some unusual flubs Sunday, but they were overshadowed by Adele's triumph and how she responded. The Recording Academy did nothing to calm criticism that black artists are overshadowed in major awards by more conservative white musicians.

Adele's "Hello" won Grammys for song and record of the year and its creator flashed pride: she called it "my favorite song I've ever done."

Her win for album of the year was more of a surprise.

News conferences raise issue of Trump seeking softballs

NEW YORK (AP)—President Donald Trump managed to avoid questions about hot-button issues facing the White House—such as the future of national security adviser Michael Flynn and a North Korean missile launch—in a news conference Monday where selected reporters asked non-challenging questions and other, shouted-out inquiries were ignored.

Trump appeared before the White House press corps after meeting Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Traditionally, leaders in these gatherings face two questions each from White House press and from reporters following the foreign leader.

The president selected his questioners: Scott Thuman from Washington's local ABC News affiliate and Kaitlan Collins of The Daily Caller, a conservative website founded in 2010 by Fox News Channel anchor Tucker Carlson.

Thuman asked Trump about his relationship with Trudeau, given the two men have outlined policy differences, and whether there were any areas where Trump had changed his stance on issues following their conversation. The president offered no specifics.



Beyonce accepts the award for best urban contemporary album for "Lemonade" at the 59th annual Grammy Awards on Sunday, Feb. 12, 2017, in Los Angeles. AP

"25" was a commercial smash but Beyonce's "Lemonade" won wider acclaim as an artistic statement. In tears, Adele thanked the academy for the award and poignantly talked about reclaiming a bit of herself after having difficulties with motherhood. Then she addressed Beyonce, praising "Lemonade" as monumental,

beautiful and soul-baring.

"The reason I felt I had to say something was my album of the year is 'Lemonade,'" Adele said backstage later. "She is my icon of my whole life."

She told of practicing a Spice Girls song for a school assembly growing up in Britain until her friends turned her

on to Beyonce's singing on the 1997 Destiny's Child song "No No No."

"It's her time to win," Adele said. "My view is kind of what the (expletive) does she have to do to win album of the year? I felt this album showed another side to her that we haven't seen and I felt blessed to be brought

into that situation."

If that's how Adele felt, many Grammy Award critics are likely to chime in. One prominent black artist, Frank Ocean, did not submit his work for Grammy consideration this year and criticized the academy for giving its top album award to Taylor Swift over Kendrick Lamar last

year. Kanye West and Drake did not attend the Grammys this year.

Beyonce won two Grammys and her visually arresting performance of "Love Drought" and "Sandcastles" won acclaim Sunday. Perhaps sensing it would be her last chance, she took the time to explain her thoughts behind "Lemonade" upon winning the Grammy for best urban contemporary album.

"My intention for the film and album is to create a body of work that would give voice to our pain, our struggles, our doubts and our history, to confront issues that make us uncomfortable," said Beyonce, who is pregnant with twins.

Blue Ivy, her 5-year-old daughter with Jay Z, was a scene-stealer in her own right as she wore a Prince-inspired outfit in the audience. She slipped into a crowd of musicians when Grammys host James Corden replicated a "carpool karaoke" skit.

As usual, the Grammy show was heavy on performance. As is less usual, there were a couple of flubs that reminded the audience it was a live telecast.

Adele called a halt to her George Michael tribute, asking the band to start "Fastlove" again. "I can't mess this up for him," she said and apologized to the audience. She was warmly applauded at the end by fellow musicians, most of whom could relate to rough moments onstage.

Playboy magazine reverses position, brings back naked women

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Naked women are back in Playboy magazine, ending a year-old ban on the nudity that made the magazine famous.

Playboy celebrated the reversal on Twitter and Facebook with the hashtag #NakedIsNormal.

The about-face came Monday with the release of Playboy's March-April issue. The 63-year-old magazine had banished naked women from its print edition because it felt the content had become passe in an era of on-line porn that is just a click away on personal computers and smartphones.

The decision to show less skin was made under the regime of Playboy Enterprises CEO Scott Flanders, who left the Los Angeles company last May to run eHealth Inc., a health insurance exchange.

Cooper Hefner, Playboy's

chief creative officer and the son of magazine founder Hugh Hefner, called the nudity ban a mistake Monday in a post on his Twitter account.

"Nudity was never the problem because nudity isn't a problem," Cooper Hefner wrote. "Today we're taking our identity back and reclaiming who we are."

Playboy declined further comment.

Magazine expert Samir Husni said the prohibition on nudity probably alienated far more readers than it attracted.

"Playboy and the idea of non-nudity is sort of an oxymoron," said Husni, a journalism professor at the University of Mississippi. "They are always going to have the stereotype as a nude magazine."

Now that nudity is back in its fold, Playboy is still going to have to figure out how to appeal to a younger audience



This image released by Playboy shows Playmate Elizabeth Elam on the cover of the March/April 2017 issue of the gentleman's magazine. AP

that has grown up in a digitally driven age where nudity has become commonplace.

"The people who grew up with Playboy magazine are starting to fade away so they will have to figure out what the millennial generation wants in the 21st century if they are going to survive," Husni said.

That challenge may fall largely on Cooper Hefner, 25, who replaced his 90-year-old father as Playboy's chief creative officer last summer.

Playboy re-embraced nudity with an issue boasting several pictorial spreads of naked women, including Miss March, Elizabeth Elam, and Miss April, Nina Daniele. The issue also features an interview with actress Scarlett Johansson and pieces on actor Adam Scott and CNN host Van Jones for those who say they only read Playboy for the articles.

ABC and People teaming up for documentary on Princess Diana

NEW YORK (AP)—Princess Diana will be the subject of a four-hour documentary miniseries airing on ABC this August.

A joint project of ABC and People magazine, the program, to be telecast over two nights, will include what the producers say will be in-depth conversations with those who knew her best as well as archival footage of the Princess of Wales.

The program will “remind the world why they fell in love with Diana in the first place,” according to Monday’s announcement.

The program will mark the 20th anniversary of Diana’s death at age 36 in a car crash in Paris on August 31, 1997.



This May 27, 1997 file photo shows Diana, Princess of Wales during her visit to Leicester, to formally open The Richard Attenborough Centre for Disability and Arts. **AP**

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Joy Villa’s ‘Great Again’ dress boosts album sales

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The attention-grabbing “Make America Great Again” dress Joy Villa wore at the Grammys appears to have led to a bump in sales for her music. Villa’s 2014 album, “I Make the Static,” was leading Amazon’s top paid albums chart over albums from Beyonce, Bruno Mars and Lady Gaga. The use of President Donald Trump’s campaign slogan on the dress she wore Sunday drew a strong reaction from Trump supporters and critics on social media. Villa explained her decision to wear the dress in an Instagram post, writing “You can either stand for what you believe in or fall for what you don’t.” She added, “agree to disagree.” Villa

has a history of eye-popping outfits to the awards. In 2015, she showed up in a dress made entirely of recycled material.

Baby bomber: Derek Jeter’s wife, Hannah, announces pregnancy

NEW YORK (AP)—Derek Jeter’s wife, Hannah, says they are expecting their first child together, a girl. The Sports Illustrated swimsuit star made the announcement Monday in an essay on her husband’s Player’s Tribune website. The announcement includes a photo of the 42-year-old Yankees legend holding a bouquet of pink balloons. She says Derek already has a name picked out, but she’s not settled on it yet. Hannah Jeter writes: “Whatever her name is, I know she’ll run circles around him.” The 26-year-old says they want her

“kids’ lives to be as ‘normal’ as possible,” because “they’re going to be born into such an extraordinary situation.” Jeter and the former Hannah Davis married in July.

Andre The Giant set for big upcoming documentary on HBO

The tall tales and colossal career of Andre the Giant will be told in an upcoming HBO documentary. WWE, HBO Sports and the Bill Simmons Media Group will produce “Andre The Giant,” a documentary film examining the life and career of one of professional wrestling’s truly biggest stars. Andre Rene Roussimoff, a native of France, was a popular touring attraction for years in wrestling and headlined the third WrestleMania in 1987 against Hulk Hogan. The

Yiannopoulos postpones book to include campus protests

NEW YORK (AP)—Life is happening fast for Milo Yiannopoulos, who has postponed his book from March to June so he can include the “craziness and rioting” that resulted from his planned appearances at a handful of West Coast campuses earlier this year.

The Breitbart editor

known for inflammatory remarks about women and Muslims announced on his Facebook page Monday that he had asked his publisher for more time to complete “Dangerous,” which now has a June 13 release date. The publisher, Threshold Editions, confirmed that the Facebook posting was by

Yiannopoulos.

“Dangerous” has been high on the Amazon.com best-seller list and the object of much anger in the publishing community and beyond. Violent protests led to the cancellation of Yiannopoulos’ talk, scheduled for Feb. 1, at the University of California, Berkeley.

CBS fires newscaster Josh Elliott

NEW YORK (AP)—CBS has fired newscaster Josh Elliott after being surprised by his live announcement that he’d no longer be working regularly at the network’s streaming service.

Elliott had a regular anchor shift at CBSN streaming service before saying on the air

last week he’d be leaving to work on stories for CBS’ television broadcasts. That caught CBS brass off guard, and the network quickly put out a statement saying Elliott would be doing stories across CBS News, including CBSN.

In his announcement, Elliott also said that while it was his

last day as anchor, “knowing how things work around here, I may see you again on Monday morning.”

Nope. CBS announced Monday that Elliott was gone. He’s worked at CBS and NBC in quick succession after leaving ABC’s “Good Morning America.”

wide-ranging documentary will explore Andre’s upbringing in France, his celebrated career in WWE and his forays in the entertainment world that included a role in “The Princess Bride.” HBO did not announce an air date for the film.

Jake Tapper writing debut novel, scheduled for 2018

NEW YORK (AP)—Jake Tapper is working on a book that you could call fake news: It’s his debut novel. The CNN anchor and chief Washington correspondent has a thriller scheduled to come out in the summer of 2018, Little, Brown and Company told The Associated Press on Monday. The novel is called “The Hellfire Club” and it takes place in a world that well predates the Trump administration—

Washington, D.C., in 1954. The story centers on Rep. Charles Marder, a young congressman from New York, and his zoologist wife Margaret. “Amid the swirl of glamorous and powerful political leaders and deal makers, a mysterious fatal car accident thrusts Charlie and Margaret into an underworld of secret deals, secret societies, and a plot that could change the course of history,” according to Little, Brown. Tapper said in a statement that “The Hellfire Club” would feature such historical figures as President Dwight Eisenhower, Sen. Joe McCarthy and then-Vice President Richard Nixon.

Scott Thomas recalls intensity of ‘The Party’ at Berlin fest

BERLIN (AP)—Kristin Scott

Thomas recalls feeling “a sort of panic” while making director Sally Potter’s “The Party,” in which she plays a politician celebrating a promotion. Potter described the movie Monday as “a light and loving look at the state of England, a kind of broken England.” It’s one of 18 films competing at the Berlin International Film Festival for its Golden Bear award. Filmed in black and white, the film follows a party to celebrate Scott Thomas’ character’s appointment as a top opposition spokeswoman, which then goes badly wrong. Scott Thomas said it was “almost like doing a play.” She recalled “a sort of panic, knowing that we had two weeks to shoot it and ... we had to get it right the first time, because there was no room for multiple takes.”

Husband’s affair could be more about money than love

DEAR ABBY: I am 68 and my husband is 80. I just found out he is involved with a 40-year-old woman. He says it is not an affair because they haven’t actually had sex! I don’t know what to do. Can you help me?

HEARTBROKEN IN NEW MEXICO

DEAR HEARTBROKEN: Your husband may not be having an affair in the physical sense, but he IS having an emotional affair. He may be flattered by the attention he’s receiving from a younger woman, or he may think he’s actually in love with her. Whether she is in love with HIM is open to question.

However, if your husband is giving her money, you might have an argument that he is being manipulated into it, which could qualify as elder abuse. Remember, too, if you are a longtime wife in a community property state, half of the assets acquired during your marriage are yours. If he doesn’t agree to end the relationship, this is something you might want to discuss with a lawyer.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My 7-year-old daughter, “Jessie,” has a best friend who lives next door. The neighbor, “Laurie,” has an older brother, “Jason,” who is 13.

Recently, Jessie played at Laurie’s house, and when she came home she told me Jason had said some nasty things to

her. When I asked what they were, she told me that one time Jason told her to pull down her underwear, and another time he told her to pull down his pants and do something that can’t be mentioned in a family newspaper.

When I heard it, I was livid. I told his mother about it, and now she will not let my daughter play with Laurie. She believes Jessie made it all up. My daughter is inconsolable because she no longer has a playmate. She believes it is her fault that Laurie can’t play with her because she told me. I don’t know what to do so the girls can play together.

NEEDS A PLAYMATE

DEAR NEEDS: It is important that you make Jessie understand that none of this was her fault—it was JASON’S fault—and that she did the right thing by telling you. What you need to do now is help your daughter find other playmates, preferably some whose parents supervise when children play in their home.

While Jason’s mother may not want to believe what her son did, it’s highly unlikely your daughter made it up. Dealing with a problem like that by putting her head in the sand will only invite more trouble, because Jason is sure to repeat it with some other little girl.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Today I called my church to cancel my attendance at a retreat a month from now. I had paid \$25 to hold my

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



spot. When I stated my reason for calling, the church secretary said, “Do you want a refund or would you like to donate toward tithes?” I thought this was nervy. I told her to refund the money. What is your thought on this?

WANTS A REFUND IN BRENTWOOD, CALIF.

DEAR WANTS: Just this: You were offered an option, and you chose the one you preferred. Let it go.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: “Abby’s Favorite Recipes” and “More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

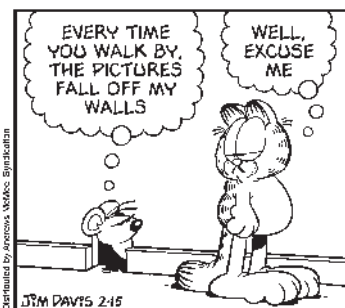
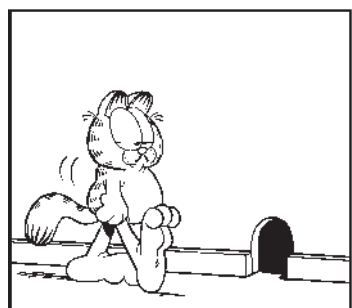
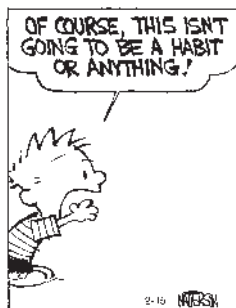
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Filches
5 Tank filler
8 "Hey, you!"
12 Life story
13 Swelled head
14 In — (even)
15 Dodge with foot-work
17 Blend
18 Affirmatives
19 Zoo heavy-weights
21 Riga resident
24 Taxi
25 Firsties
28 Killer whale
30 iPhone download
33 Epoch
34 Hunter in the sky
35 "Evita" narrator
36 WWII service-woman
37 Use a sponge
38 Related
39 "— Tiki"

DOWN

1 Optimistic
2 Theater award
3 Auction actions
4 Braces (oneself)
5 Retrieve
6 Bio stat
7 Former frosh
8 Argentine grass-land
9 Move to the rear
10 Missile shelter
11 Turner and
16 Compass dir.
20 Volunteer's words
22 Actress Spelling
23 Non-sense
25 Morning moisture
26 401(k) alternative
27 Gym-nast's move
29 Not single-sex
31 Greek consonant
32 Corral
34 Has
38 Ticked
40 Expels
42 Nile biter
43 Caboose
44 Vogue rival
45 New news
47 Leslie Caron role
48 Genesis name
49 Cincinnati team
52 Brit's restroom
53 Wall climber

Solution time: 23 mins.

F	E	A	T	P	I	G	M	E	S	A
I	R	M	A	U	S	A	F	E	W	A
T	R	I	B	N	A	L	L	E	N	T
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I	V	E	S	T	R	I	A	S	S	C
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T	R	I	U	M	P	I	S	G	R	A
N	O	N	O	S	L	I	M	S		
M	O	R	E	S	O	T	A	O		
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R	A	T	E	C	U	E	M	O	A	T
E	A	N	H	E	S	Y	O	K	E	

Yesterday's answer 2-15

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Amber Riley, 31; Matt Groening, 63; Melissa Manchester, 66; Jane Seymour, 66.

Happy Birthday: Face challenges with confidence. Trust and believe in your ability to make things happen and to achieve positive gains throughout the year. Choose to participate and to negotiate on your own behalf. Good fortune awaits you if you are willing to do your part. Act quickly and with precision. Romance and commitment will lead to a brighter future. Your numbers are 8, 13, 20, 26, 31, 37, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Test what you have discovered through conversations and past experiences. Your ability to expand an idea and to get things up and running will help you drum up interest and support. Romance and physical improvements are highlighted. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Interacting with financial or medical institutions, government agencies or the courts will be difficult but doable if you have your documents in order and a good plan of action. Keep an open mind and be willing to compromise. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Put some muscle as well as thought into whatever you take on today. Foresight and progressive action will show that you mean business. Much can be accomplished this year, and the payoff will lead to greater personal security. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Learn as you go and refuse to let anyone step in and take over or lead you in the wrong

direction. Moderation will be your ticket to success. Problems with children or peers will surface if you are aggressive. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Personal changes will improve your position. An investment will pay off, altering the way you live. Sharing your thoughts with someone special will help you raise your standard of living. Love is highlighted. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Taking part is one thing, but spending more than you can afford is another. Don't go into debt to keep up with your peers or to give someone something in order to win favors. Live within your means. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll have too many options. Size up your situation and eliminate anything that isn't in your best interest. Stay focused on what you want to achieve and resist becoming a jack-of-all-trades and master of none. Romance is favored. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Show consideration and be attentive toward the people you deal with daily. It's important not to let anyone take advantage of you. Find balance and equality in the relationships you choose without giving up the right to do things your way. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Shoot for the stars. It's how you strategize and maneuver your way through the ups and downs that will secure a place in the spotlight. A romantic gesture will improve your personal life. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Minor accidents or injury can be expected if you take unnecessary risks. Think before you make a move that you feel the least bit uncertain about making. Trust in your intuition, not what someone else says or does. ★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Step up and make every thought and motion count. You are right on target, so don't back down when there is so much you can do to make your life better. Personal improvements will build the confidence required to become successful. ★★★★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Show courtesy and goodwill, but don't let anyone take advantage of you. Show strength and courage to follow the path that will lead to success on your own terms. Take initiative and help your cause. ★★★

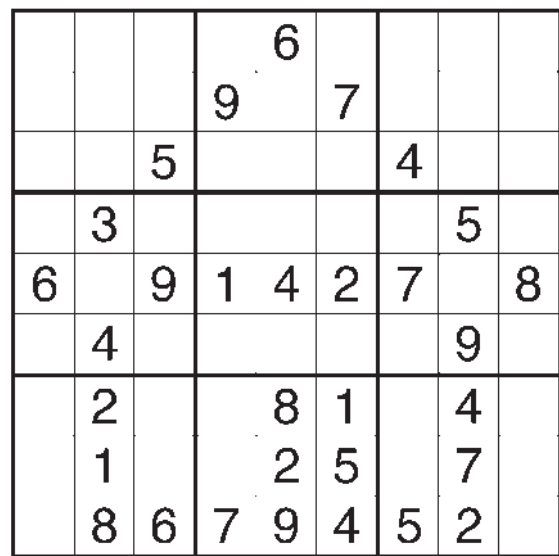
Birthday Baby: You are charismatic, courteous and free-spirited. You are progressive and precise.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

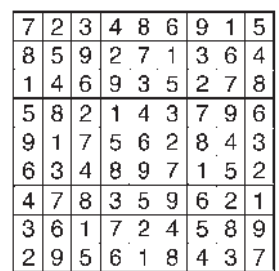


Difficulty Level ★★ ★

2/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

2/14

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

'MUSEUM SECRETS' (TV SERIES)

Solution: 14 letters

I K L N O P P E N H E I M A E
S N Y A A O B J E C T S L W S
I E T R N R T O R O N T O A W
C N I E E O R F E O R E C R E
S A S R R T I A I N Y I E D I
E N N I E A S T T R R A S S V
I C E A D L C Y A E L G L E I
R I U D D L T M N D C R U S
E E E I N I N A I E U L E U U
V N S N S E A N G V G B S A
O T O N M H G N R R E V E A L
C C O U C A A E P A L A C E E
S W C T M R T W L A N G C R A
I O A E T R E B O R O N A T R
D W S S N O I T C E L L O C N

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Yesterday's Answer: Chapman
Treasury 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 or 24 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

STUMPED?

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Area of expertise to include one or more of the following - biology, geology, natural sciences, environmental engineer. BSc or higher. Seeking experienced, motivated professionals with project management experience. Salary commensurate with experience.

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Saipan Tribune



EMPLOYMENT

Opening for Accountant w/Bridge Capital, LLC in Garapan, Saipan, CNMI. Min Reqs: Bach deg in Acctng (may be foreign equiv); 2 yrs exp as an Accountant; 1 yr exp using Quickbooks, Real World, Peachtree, or other bus acctng software progs; & 6 mos exp using Microsoft Excel. Provides financial analyses, preparation of financial reports, & financial advice to corp. Send CV to PMB 29, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950; email to jordan.sundell@bccnmi.com or fax to 670-322-2323. Verif of qualifs req.



EMPLOYMENT

3 Accountant/ Bookkeeper, minimum salary. Mail resume to Burger & Comer PC at P.O. Box 504053, Saipan, MP 96950

1 Welder, 3 mason, 1 carpenter, 1 electrician, 1 plumber & 2 Gen. maintenance & repair worker, minimum salary. Please mail resume to Blue Lagoon Realty Inc. P.O. Box 505478, Saipan MP 96950 or call 670-288-6903/04 look for Robert.

2 Accountant/ Bookkeeper, 8 Houseworker, 6 Landscaper, 2 waiter/waitress, 2 Heavy equip-



EMPLOYMENT

ment operator, minimum salary. Mail resume to MTO Maintenance (Saipan), Inc. at P.O. Box 504053, Saipan MP 96950.



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ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
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• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

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Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245 Fax: (670) 235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

POSITION VACANCY: Administrative Specialist II, Classified Position
LOCATION: Rota Office
ANNUAL SALARY: \$16,858.38 - \$20,484.60
CLOSING DATE: To Be Announced

NATURE OF WORK

The position is under the supervision of the Office Manager, Saipan. The individual works in conjunction with Saipan personnel and require coordination with the various departments in order to accomplish a variety of responsibilities. This position is tasked with promoting CDA's mission in Rota. The position has some degree of independence such as the management of daily activities-revising workflow to suit the agency.

GENERAL DUTIES:

- Issues loan applications and explains basic application requirements.
- Organizes and coordinates CDA related functions and events.
- Organizes and coordinates deliveries and pick-ups and routes necessary documents for Board signature.
- Prepares and submits monthly activity report to Administration, Saipan.
- Receives and receipts all payments.
- Prepares and deposits collections on a daily basis.
- Prepares daily collection report and submits to Accounting Dept, Saipan.
- Submits daily receipts on a monthly basis to Accounting Dept. Saipan.
- Performs related work as assigned.

QUALIFICATION and OTHER REQUIREMENTS / SKILLS

Any combination equivalent to Bachelor Degree plus (2) years of related work experience in office management or staff. Knowledge of modern office practices and modern office equipment; Knowledge of MS Office word processing and spreadsheet applications; Ability to express oneself effectively, orally and in writing; and have excellent organizational skills.

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with an employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC/CDA Office in Rota or may be obtained on CDA's website at www.developcnmi.com.

Applicants are requested to submit their application and supporting documents to the Office of Personnel Management in Rota.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Christy Kintol, Office Manager at (670) 234-6245 extension 310 or by e-mail at c.kintol@developcnmi.com.

TRIPLE J RESTAURANT GROUP
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**Triple J offers competitive benefits
and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.**



Marianas Medical Center

is seeking for U.S. qualified workers for the following positions:

(1) Radiology Technician

Associate's degree in Radiology from a school approved by the Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners (CBNE), with two (2) years of relevant work experience as a Radiology Technician. Must have the ability to take, review, evaluate and operate X-Ray, Ultrasound, Mammogram and Echocardiogram equipment. Must be licensed under Health Care Professions Licensing Board as a Radiology Technician in the CNMI. Must have the ability to work proficiently in a fast paced clinical environment.

(1) Licensed Practical Nurse (part-time)

Associate's degree from an accredited school of professional nursing with one (1) year of experience in a health care or medical setting. Must complete an LPN program from a school approved by the Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners (CBNE). Must pass US NCLEX-LPN and is licensed as an LPN by CBNE. Must have the ability to work proficiently in a fast paced clinical environment. Ability to speak and translate in the Chinese language is preferred.

(1) Midwife (part-time)

College graduate completion of accredited Midwifery training program approved by the Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners (CBNE), with five (5) years of work experience in Midwifery. Must be licensed under Health Care Professions Licensing Board as a Midwife in the CNMI. Must have the ability to work proficiently in a fast paced clinical environment.

(1) Medical Coder & Biller

Must be a Certified Professional Coder (CPC), or a Certified Professional Coder Apprentice (CPC-A) with at least one (1) year of relevant work experience as a Medical Coder and Biller. Must have the ability to understand and assess medical diagnosis and procedure codes. Must be able to compile data, compute fees and charges and prepare claims and invoices for billing purposes. Must have the ability to provide education to physicians and other business personnel regarding medical coding.

(1) Accountant

Bachelor's degree in Accounting with three (3) years of accounting experience is required. Proficiency in Microsoft Office applications, excellent verbal and written communication skills, analytical and problem solving abilities, and the ability to multi-task in a fast paced environment is also required. Experience working in a medical field setting is preferred.

Position closes at 5:00pm on Thursday, February 21, 2017.

Applications are available at the Marianas Medical Center. Applications should include a resume and evidence of education degree(s) and professional licenses claimed. It should also include a valid Police Clearance of no more than 6 months old. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Testing may be required for some positions. Marianas Medical Center is an equal opportunity employer.

SAIPAN MARINE CORP.

TEMPORARY JOB OPENING

Saipan Marine Corp. is inviting interested U.S. Citizens, U.S. Green Card holders and FAS work authorized citizens with 2 years Ship repair experience to apply for employment with us.

Our job categories include but are not limited to:

- (6) Painter/Blaster
- (8) Marine Mechanics
- (4) Electrician
- (6) Welders/Fitter
- (4) Pipefitter

We are equal opportunity employer and comply with all CNMI laws relevant to employment. All qualified candidates will receive serious consideration.

Apply in person at:

Saipan Marine Corp.

Ground Floor, CPA Building
Commercial Port Avenue, Puerto Rico
Saipan MP 96950



Kanoa Resort

Saipan

is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Accounting Manager (1)

Qualifications: Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or equivalent number of years of related experience, plus five years of progressive management experience in the areas of financial preparation, budgeting, payroll, purchasing, accounts payable, accounts receivable. Knowledgeable and skilled in the use of a personal computer and software applications particularly SAP, R3, and FICO. Strong organizational skills and possess the ability to prepare and maintain detailed records and the ability to work effectively under stressful conditions. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our resort. To be considered, applicants must be submitted not later than March 01, 2017. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

**Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons
with Disabilities are urged to apply.**



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- Position also includes some warehouse checking duties.
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- Computer skills necessary preferably with experience in Excel, Outlook, Sage or similar accounting system.
- You should be result-oriented and must be well-organized, reliable, punctual, and a self-starter.
- The successful applicant will be required to provide a police clearance.
- Applicants must be able to permanently and legally work in the C.N.M.I.
- Applications close February 17, 2017.

We offer an excellent pay and benefits package.
D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd. is an equal opportunity employer.

For more information, please call 322 2706, or apply in person at
CTSI Building, Lower Base. Fax 322 2711.
E-mail info@dqsaipan.com

SAIPAN COUNTRY CLUB JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT (01) BOOKKEEPER (Full-time)

Summary

Update and maintain accounts payable and receivable, calculate profit and loss statements, prepare bank deposits, verify and balance receipts, handle payroll, prepare invoices and keep track of overdue accounts, monitor loans and payments, total, balance and reconcile billing vouchers and enter code transactions according to company accounting procedures.

Job Duties:

- Update and maintain accounts payable and receivable.
- Calculate profit and loss statements.
- Prepare bank deposits, verify and balance receipts.
- Process payroll.
- Prepare invoices and keep track of overdue accounts.
- Monitor loans and payments. Total, balance and reconcile billing vouchers and enter code transactions according to company accounting procedures.

Qualification Requirements:

- Bachelor degree in Accounting preferred. 3 years of experience preferred.
- Knowledge of QuickBooks required.
- Knowledge in Excel, MC Word, Power Point programs.
- Must have a minimum of three (3) years work experience in accounting.
- Must have thorough knowledge of QuickBooks Accounting System.
- Must work with minimal or no supervision.
- Must have own transportation to and from the workplace.

Scope

- Applicants will be primarily based in our Saipan head office
- Salary Range

**Interested applicants must submit resume to our Bridge Capital office on Micro Beach Rd, Garapan, or email to taniamesa@bccnmi.com.
Deadline to submit application will be Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at 4:00 pm. No phone calls please.**




PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN



We are seeking for high energy individuals with a positive, can do attitude. Pacific Islands Club, Saipan is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

CLUBMATES

Must have previous related work experience and must pass all American Red Cross Lifeguard requirements (including a 300 yard continuous swim test); Sports-minded individuals are encouraged to apply; Must possess good verbal and written communication skills; Korean, Japanese and/or Russian language skill is a plus; Paid training and free two year lifeguard certification course for eligible candidates; Must be able to work on evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) COOK

Minimum of one (1) year related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(2) FRONT DESK CLERK

Minimum of one (1) year work experience, preferably in hospitality. Previous cashing experience required. Fluency in Korean, Russian and/or Japanese languages is preferred. Must be able to work evenings, graveyard shifts, weekends and holidays.

(1) LAUNDRY ATTENDANT

Minimum of three (3) months of work experience; Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) PUBLIC AREA ATTENDANT

Minimum six (6) months of work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) SALES MANAGER (JAPAN MARKET)

Minimum of three (3) years of Sales experience in the hotel industry is required. Four (4) years College degree preferred. Proficiency in Japanese language (verbal, written, reading and understanding) as well as Japanese MS Office, Opera System, Site Minder and Japanese hotel booking systems is required. Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Monday, February 20, 2017.

PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance. Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Commonwealth Zoning Board (Zoning Office)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Zoning Office is seeking qualified applicants for the following positions. These are full-time positions on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

1. Zoning Officer (1)
2. Zoning Enforcement Techs (2)

Duties and Responsibilities:

(Officer) Process permit applications including reviewing applications for compliance, tracking timelines and public notice requirements, coordinating interagency consultations, and preparing written recommendations; Conduct field surveys and inspections for compliance with the Zoning Law and to collect land use information; Educate and inform the public and applicants about the zoning program and permit requirements; Gather information to update the GIS; Maintain detailed records of all actions, using paper and electronic media; Update permit information on the database; Perform other duties as assigned.

(Enforcement) Conduct field surveys; Collect land use information; Prepare and serve notices of violation and other compliance documents; Write follow-up enforcement notices; Maintain enforcement database and files; Prepare enforcement reports, Perform other related duties as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

(Officer) Graduation from an accredited two-year college or university with an AA Degree. A minimum of 3 years in the following professional experience may substitute for the AA Degree:

(Enforcement) A minimum of 2 years background in the following:

Any combination of land use planning, zoning, public administration, public health & safety, business management, public policy, natural resource management, environmental management, land management, regulatory and permitting enforcement or related field; Proficiency with office software including MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook Explorer. Other desired experiences include ability to drive a stick-shift car and to walk into construction sites and across rough terrain; Ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing; Ability to work flexible hours, including some evenings and weekends; Ability to speak in Chamorro or Carolinian a plus. Applicant must have a valid CNMI Driver's License.

The salaries are \$25,000 (**enforcement**) and \$28,000 (permitting). Health, life and retirement benefits are provided. Information about the Zoning Board and the Zoning Office may be viewed at the Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp. Application submittals should be addressed to the Zoning Administrator. Submittals may be sent via e-mail, FAX, U.S. mail, or hand delivered to the address below. Submittals must include a letter of interest, a CNMI Application for Employment, and a resume. The Application for Employment may be picked up from the Zoning Office or the Office of Personnel Management. Applicants must be US citizens, permanent residents or immediate relatives. Please send submittals to: E-mail: Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp or to the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

**The deadline to receive applications and all requirements is
Thursday, February 23, 2017 at 4:30pm.**

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper. Please call 235-NEWS

Nuggets tie NBA mark with 24 3s in win over Warriors



DENVER (AP)—The sellout crowd at the Pepsi Center came to see the sharpshooters, and they did. Only, it wasn't the Golden State Warriors hitting from long range, but the short-handed Denver Nuggets.

"Once we saw a few go in, we just wanted to keep going, see how many we could hit," Will Barton said after the Nuggets tied an NBA record with 24 3-pointers while shocking the Warriors 132-110 on Monday night.

The Nuggets beat the Warriors at their own game, but it wasn't by design.

"We just wanted to get after them, challenge them on offense and defense. It just so happened that we hit a lot of 3s. So, we just kept rolling with it," Barton said. "But we never come into a game, especially with a team like that and just want to outshoot them from beyond the arc because that's what they do."

The Warriors couldn't counter Denver's dizzying display, sinking just 8 of 32 3-pointers.

Even Stephen Curry couldn't keep up with Denver's surprise sharpshooters, finishing 1 of 11 from beyond the arc.

"I felt confident, every shot I took felt like it was going in," Curry said. "Just got served a humble slice of cupcake."

The only Denver player who didn't join the long-range barrage was Nikola Jokic, who was too busy setting career highs with 12 assists and 21 rebounds to go with 17 points in his second career triple-double.

The Nuggets tied the 3-point mark set by the Rockets in December against New Orleans when rookie Juan Hernangomez sank his sixth three at the 2-minute mark.

"Yeah, we knew it at the end," Gary Harris said. "We were trying to get one more."

But their last two 3-pointers in the final minute rattled out, and Jamal Murray passed up an uncontested 3 to dribble out the clock. Denver finished 24 of 40

from beyond the arc.

"Every time somebody shot, it just felt like the ball was going in," Harris said. "It's crazy."

Hernangomez scored a season-high 27 points to go with a season-best 10 boards, Barton added 24 points and Jameer Nelson 23.

Kevin Durant led Golden State with 25 points 48 hours after his emotional return to Oklahoma City.

He kept waiting for the Nuggets to cool off, and they never did.

"I thought they would. They were playing confident and free," Durant said. "They had nothing to lose, especially missing some of their guys."

The Warriors' ninth loss of the season matched their total from last year when they set an NBA record by winning 73 games. This also marked their biggest loss since a 129-100 blowout at the hands of the Spurs in the season opener.

"It was one of those nights they had everything going, they were on fire and we couldn't get much going ourselves," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "We looked kind of gassed out there."

Spurs 110, Pacers 106

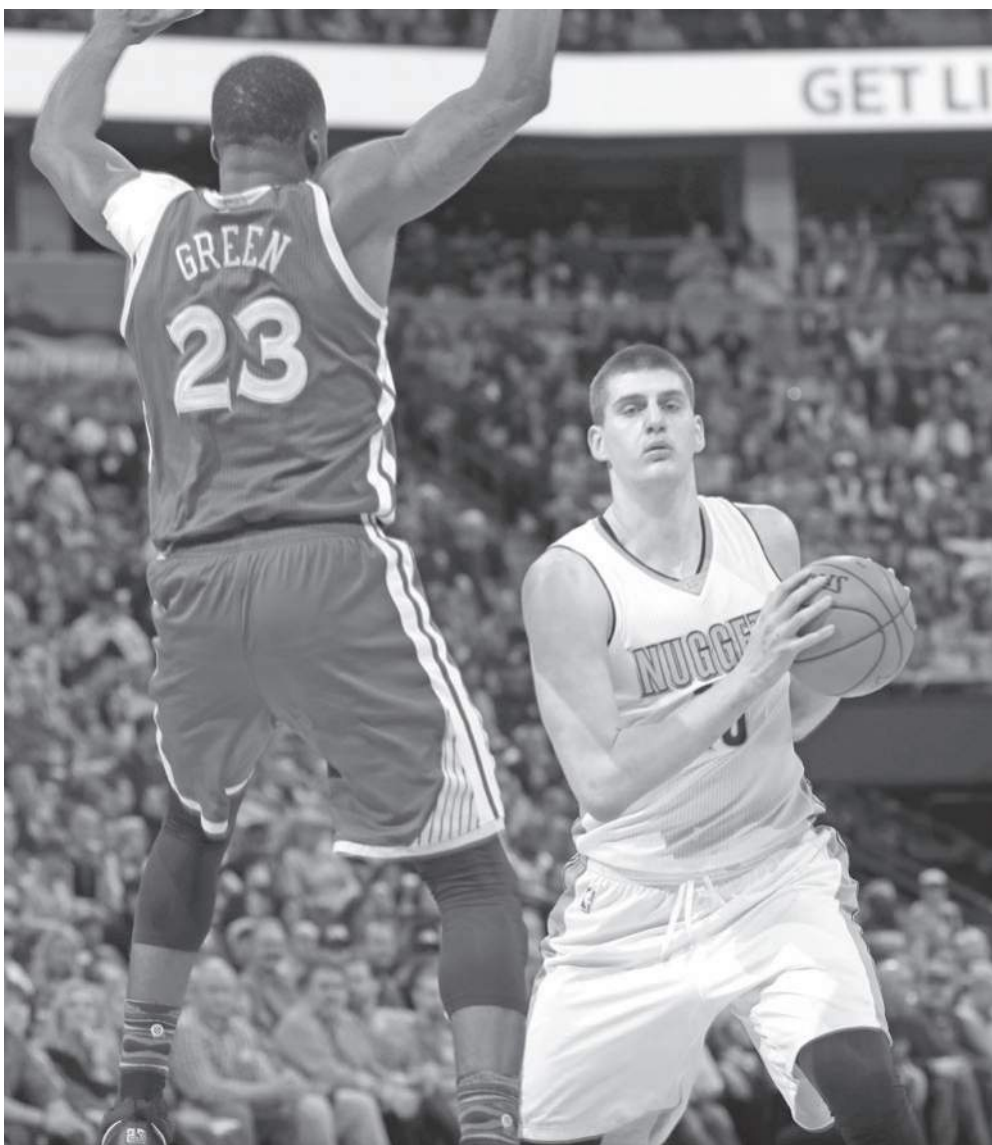
In Indianapolis, Kawhi Leonard scored 32 points as San Antonio clinched its NBA-record 20th consecutive winning season with a victory over Indiana.

LaMarcus Aldridge scored 10 of his 19 points during the final 6 1/2 minutes as the Spurs improved to 42-13 in the season following Tim Duncan's retirement. They have had a winning record every season since 1997-98, when Duncan was a rookie, and broke a tie with the Utah Jazz, who had 19 straight winning seasons from 1985-2004.

Paul George scored 27 points and Myles Turner had 22 for the Pacers, who have lost four straight—three on their home court.

Celtics 111, Mavericks 98

In Dallas, Isaiah Thomas



AP
Denver Nuggets forward Nikola Jokic, right, of Serbia, slips past Golden State Warriors forward Draymond Green to take a shot in the second half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Feb. 13, 2017, in Denver.

his guarantee that the Hornets would beat the 76ers. He had 16 points on 5-of-12 shooting, but the Hornets lost for the 10th time in 11 games.

Robert Covington had 17 points for the 76ers while T.J. McConnell added 14 points and seven assists. Kemba Walker scored 29 points for the Hornets.

Grizzlies 112, Nets 103

In New York, Mike Conley scored 32 points while Marc Gasol had 19 points, nine rebounds and eight assists as Memphis beat hapless Brooklyn.

Brandan Wright added 17 points and Vince Carter had 14 as the Grizzlies won for the fourth time in their last five games.

Brook Lopez and Spencer Dinwiddie each had 17 points as the Nets lost their 13th straight overall and 15th straight at home to set a new franchise record for futility.

Pelicans 110, Suns 108

In Phoenix, Anthony Davis scored six consecutive points, the last two the go-ahead rebound basket with 40.3 seconds to play, as New Orleans escaped with a victory over Phoenix.

The Suns missed three shots close to the basket in the final seconds, one by Eric Bledsoe and two by P.J. Tucker.

Davis scored 24 points, four below his season average. Jrue Holiday added 18, and Tyreke Evans and E'Twaun Moore had 15 apiece for the Pelicans, playing a night after a loss in Sacramento.

Bledsoe scored 37, the last on a 3-pointer that put the Suns ahead 108-107 with 1:12 to go.

Bucks 102, Pistons 89

In Milwaukee, Greg Monroe had 25 points and 13 rebounds and Michael Beasley added 23 points as Milwaukee beat Detroit, winning its first home game since star forward Jabari Parker got hurt.

The Bucks led by 22 at one point and held a double-digit advantage for most of the second half. It was a confidence-building outing for a team adjusting to life again without Parker, the 20 point-a-game scorer who tore his left ACL last week for the second time in three seasons.

Marcus Morris led Detroit with 26 points, while Andre Drummond added 21 points and 12 rebounds.

Jordan, Silver helping to repair Oakley-Dolan relationship

NEW YORK (AP)—Michael Jordan and NBA Commissioner Adam Silver are helping repair the relationship between Charles Oakley and Madison Square Garden chairman James Dolan.

Oakley and Dolan met with Silver on Monday at NBA headquarters, with Jordan participating by phone, the league said in a statement.

Oakley was arrested last Wednesday following an altercation with MSG security while attending a Knicks game, and Dolan banned the former Knicks star from the

arena two days later.

"It is beyond disheartening to see situations involving members of the NBA family like the one that occurred at Madison Square Garden this past week," Silver said.

Jordan and Oakley were teammates in Chicago before Oakley was traded to New York, where he became a fan favorite with the Knicks from 1988-98.

Oakley and Dolan have had a strained relationship in part because of Oakley's criticisms of the team. It hit a low point when security sur-

rounded Oakley in his seat a few rows behind Dolan during a nationally televised game, and Oakley responded by shoving at least two of the security officials.

The Knicks said Oakley was abusive even before taking his seat, and Dolan claimed that the former power forward had anger or alcohol issues when announcing the ban in a radio interview Friday.

"Both Mr. Oakley and Mr. Dolan were apologetic about the incident and subsequent comments, and their negative impact on the Knicks organi-

zation and the NBA," Silver said. "Mr. Dolan expressed his hope that Mr. Oakley would return to MSG as his guest in the near future."

Dolan welcomed back another ex-Knicks, Latrell Sprewell, on Sunday during a victory over San Antonio. Sprewell hadn't been back at MSG since 2004 because of his own falling out with Dolan.

Also Monday, Rev. Al Sharpton called on Dolan to immediately lift Oakley's ban, or the National Action Network would picket MSG.

had 29 points and eight assists while his backcourt mate Marcus Smart added 19 points against his hometown team as Boston beat Dallas.

Kelly Olynyk scored seven of his 15 points during a 12-2 run that started with the Celtics leading by one in the fourth quarter as the Atlantic Division leaders won for the 10th time in 11 games. Boston pulled within two games of Cleveland atop the Eastern Conference.

Rookie Yogi Ferrell had 20 points for the Mavericks.

Wizards 120, Thunder 98

In Washington, Russell Westbrook sat down for good midway through the third quarter while Oklahoma City was in the midst of missing 24 consecutive shots as Bradley Beal

and John Wall carried Washington to a stunningly lopsided victory.

Westbrook entered the game leading the NBA in scoring average at 31.2 and third in assists at 10.2 per game, along with a total of 26 triple-doubles, but he finished with only 17 points — equaling his second-lowest total of the season — on 5-for-19 shooting. He had four assists and four rebounds.

Westbrook missed nine field-goal attempts in a row during that eye-opening, team-wide drought when the Thunder were being outscored 32-5 from late in the second quarter to late in the third.

Beal scored 22 points, making 6 of 7 3-point tries. Wall had 15 points and 14 assists.

Clippers 88, Jazz 72

In Salt Lake City, Blake Griffin had 26 points, 10 rebounds and six assists as Los Angeles rolled over Utah.

The Clippers controlled the game for all but a short stretch of the first quarter while the Jazz had a horrific shooting night. DeAndre Jordan brought the energy early, then Austin Rivers got hot in the second quarter before Griffin had a dominant 12-point third quarter.

Jordan finished with 10 points and 13 rebounds and Rivers had 15 points.

Rudy Gobert had 10 points and 14 rebounds for Utah.

Magic 116, Heat 107

In Miami, Evan Fournier scored 24 points and Elfrid Payton added 20 off the bench as Orlando beat Miami to snap a four-game losing streak.

Serge Ibaka scored 17 points and Nik Vucevic finished with 13 points and 17 rebounds for Orlando, while Dion Waiters returned from a sprained ankle and scored 23 points for Miami, whose eight-game home winning streak was snapped.

Goran Dragic scored 22 points for the Heat, who have lost two straight following a 13-game winning streak.

76ers 105, Hornets 99

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Dario Saric had 18 points and 11 rebounds off the bench as Philadelphia beat slumping Charlotte for its third straight win.

Charlotte guard Nic Batum failed to make good on

Seung-hwan Oh brings stability to back of Cardinals' bullpen



JUPITER, Fla. (AP)—

Tyler Lyons recalls being impressed. Then he wasn't so sure. Then, well, pretty much everyone realized what the Cardinals had in Seung-hwan Oh.

A year ago, Lyons was admiring how his new bullpen mate was able to work the corners of the plate with an array of pitches. A couple weeks later, Lyons was concerned when Oh's fastball only ticked the high 80 mph range during early spring games.

"And you get to the (regular season) games, and it's season time, and he's throwing sliders harder than he was throwing fastballs in some of his first spring outings," Lyons said.

Even Cardinals management wasn't exactly sure where Oh fit.

St. Louis signed Oh, who earned the nickname "Final Boss" as he grew into one of the best closers in Korean baseball history, after his contract with Japan's Hanshin Tigers expired following the 2015 season. A closer nearly all his career, the right-hander's role with Cardinals entering his first Major League Baseball season wasn't defined.

Trevor Rosenthal saved a combined 93 games over the previous two seasons for St. Louis, but he battled control issues and injury, opening a spot for Oh. The South Korean threw strikes, which translated into outs, and ultimately saves — 19 of them.



"He's very entertaining," said Lyons, who is working his way back from a knee injury and expects to be throwing from the mound soon. "He's a fun guy to hang out with. As far as in the clubhouse, at the field, you watch him go about his business and you realize

why he's as good as he is. He puts in his time and his work."

Cardinals pitchers and catchers officially reported to camp on Monday but Oh, like most of the players in that group, has actually been here for a little while.

Last spring, he arrived a

couple days before reporting date. This time? He's already been in Jupiter for about a month.

Other than the earlier arrival, the 34-year-old Oh didn't alter much from previous offseason routines. "I just have a better grasp of things

to manage myself time-wise," Oh said.

He's feeling a little bit stronger this year, too, but that won't change Oh's approach to the spring. Grapefruit League hitters can expect spring fastballs that resemble regular-season change-ups—

AP
In this Oct. 1, 2016, file photo, St. Louis Cardinals relief pitcher Seung Hwan Oh throws during the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Pittsburgh Pirates, in St. Louis.

especially early.

"I'm kind of a slow starter always," Oh said. "That's what I always do, pacing myself."

There one major difference in this year's spring routine will come when Oh returns home to play for South Korea in the World Baseball Classic—one of six Cardinals big leaguers who will take part in the tournament.

It will be Oh's fourth world baseball classic. In nine WBC appearances, Oh's posted an 0-1 record with two saves to go with a 2.78 ERA.

Stores in South Korea are already selling out of St. Louis Cardinals hats, said interpreter Eugene Koo, who attended events there with Oh during the offseason. During that return home, Oh drew throngs for autograph sessions, embracing the fame that comes with being an international star.

"It's not bad, because it also means that a lot of Koreans are getting more interested in Major League Baseball and they are watching more of the sport, so it's a good thing for us," Oh said.

That's the future, though. At the moment, standing near Florida palm trees, Oh's mind is on the Cardinals.

"It starts now," he said.

Source: Royals, LHP Wood agree to \$12M, 2-year deal

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Just a week ago, Royals general manager Dayton Moore sat deep within Kauffman Stadium and admitted that he was probably finished building his starting rotation ahead of spring training.

He decided Monday that there was one more move to make.

The Royals and left-hander Travis Wood agreed to a \$12 million, two-year contract, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because Wood still needed to pass a physical for the contract to become official.

The 30-year-old has spent the past five seasons with the World Series champion Chicago Cubs, first as a starter and then working exclusively out of the bullpen last year. But he will be given a chance to earn the fifth spot in the Royals' rotation behind left-handers Danny Duffy and Jason Vargas and right-handers Ian Kennedy and Jason Hammel.

Moore signed Hammel, a



AP
This Oct. 19, 2016, file photo shows Chicago Cubs relief pitcher Travis Wood throwing during the seventh inning of Game 4 of the National League baseball championship series against the Los Angeles Dodgers in Los Angeles.

teammate of Wood last season, to a \$16 million, two-year contract last week. Moore said then "we believe this acquisition solidifies and completes our rotation."

The thought was that Kansas City would open the final spot in the rotation to competition among a handful of promising young pitchers. But signing Wood gives them some flexibility; his bullpen history means he could provide important relief innings.

Wood had a 2.95 ERA out of the bullpen last year, and tossed 6 1/3 innings of relief during the Cubs' championship run. Wood even earned a victory in the Division Series against San Francisco.

The Royals have mined the Cubs this offseason as they aim to build on their 81-81 finish a year ago and return to the World Series, which they reached the previous two years. Along with signing Hammel and Wood, they also shipped All-Star closer Wade Davis to Chicago for young outfielder Jorge Soler.

The spending spree for

Hammel and Wood late this offseason was made in large part because of the tragic death of Yordano Ventura. The 25-year-old flamethrower, expected to anchor their rotation for years, was killed in a car crash in the Dominican Republic last month.

"Obviously we weren't in the starting pitcher market," Moore said last week. "Once we got through the shock of Yordano, obviously, you've got to move forward. We have a baseball season to play, a team we are responsible for, players we are committed to and a fan base we're responsible for as well."

The Royals were expected to be bit players in free agency this offseason, and Moore acknowledged that the payroll may have to be cut after it established a franchise record last season. But the deals for Hammel and Wood, combined with a \$12 million, two-year deal for designated hitter Brandon Moss, means the Royals could eclipse \$140 million in payroll for the second straight year.

Festival of Runs now globally recognized

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

The Annual Festival of Runs, which hosts multiple marathons of various lengths in one day, has just recently acquired globally recognized certification for each marathon, leaving the Marianas Visitors Authority hopeful for an increase of international participants.

Four certificates were obtained by a team led by MVA community projects manager Martin Duenas for the Saipan Ultra Marathon, Saipan Marathon, Saipan Half Marathon, and Saipan 10km, officially measuring in distance at 50km or 31.07 miles, 42.195km or 26.21 miles, 21.0975km or 13.11 miles, and 10km or 6.21 miles respectively by the certifying body, the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races, or AIMS.

The certificate also includes recognition from the International Association of Athletics Federations, or IAAF.

MVA board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce said the certification might prove to be significant in attracting international markets to Saipan.

“We are hoping that it would bring us more runners since it has been certified by AIMS and IAAF. We just have to make sure that we take advantage of that and publicize it. The Festival of Runs has been a very successful program of

MVA but there has been a decline in the last couple of years so we hope that [the certification] could boost up the participations,” she said.

“I think because of the certification the marketing people of the various countries would now take that and make sure that everybody knows about it.”

MVA managing director Chris Concepcion said the certification allows for additional advertising of Saipan as well as additional perks for international and local marathon-runners that are interested in joining the oldest and most prestigious marathon in the world—the Boston Marathon.

“Now that we have [been certified], we are officially on the global map [for marathons],” said Concepcion. “Our membership in AIMS automatically list us in their website of world-recognized marathons. We get a free quarter page advertisement in their magazine (*Distance Running Magazine*) every year.”

Concepcion added international marathon-runners access the globally recognized AIMS and IAAF website to see which marathons they can run in.

“We should expect more international participants because we are going to market it as [a way to join the Boston Marathon].”

One may expect a qualify-

ing slot in the Boston Marathon by joining and finishing the Saipan Marathon.

The certification issued by AIMS and IAAF has a five-year term that is easily renewable at the end of the term should there be minimal to no changes in the marathon route.

Concepcion said a representative of AIMS that went through the route by bike and was also escorted through the highways by the Department of Public Safety manually measured the marathon.

For Guam, skipping the 2019 Asian Cup is a lost opportunity

By **JOHN DUERDEN**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Less than two years after the team from tiny Guam drew international attention in the qualifying tournament for the 2018 World Cup, the football story in the northern Pacific island has turned to one of broken dreams.

Prior to June 2015, the United States territory, which joined FIFA only in 1996, had lost its only two World Cup qualifiers with a combined score of 35-0.

Then, with the space of five days, Guam beat Turkmenistan and India to temporarily top an Asian qualifying group containing Iran and Oman and jumped to No. 146 in FIFA’s rankings, its highest ever place.

The results also earned Guam—for the first time—a spot in the final round of qualification for the Asian Cup, to be held in 2019. But that opportunity is gone.

Guam Football Associated

chief executive Richard Lai last month blamed a lack of funding when he announced the decision to withdraw from the continental tournament.

So when the draw was made last week, Nepal slotted into Guam’s allocated spot and ended up in Group F with Philippines, Tajikistan and Yemen. The winners and runners-up in all six groups will advance to the AFC Cup in the United Arab Emirates in 2019.

The decision to withdraw from the qualifying generated backlash from players and fans, but Lai told The Associated Press that it would cost around \$1.2 million to compete in the six qualifying games and “We just don’t have the money.”

He said many of the players are based in the United States and the cost of flying them into and out of Guam and setting up training camps drives up the costs for an FA with little sponsorship, broadcasting revenue or government

support.

“There is no sports ministry here to support the team (and) every NGO here has to be self-sustaining,” Lai said. “The FIFA grants come with conditions regarding women’s football and youth football and facilities. We can’t keep investing all we have in the national team only.”

The federation said it plans to focus on Guam’s youngsters in the hope it will pay dividends in the future.

“We can develop more and better players, help more go to the U.S. and improve then we can play friendlies against teams like Thailand and Singapore and start generating revenue,” Lai said.

Jason Cunliffe, who was captain of the national team, said he was upset when he found out through the media that Guam had withdrawn from the Asian Cup.

“The money is there. I think maybe not all of it was there immediately but there was a way,” he said. “We’ve known

since March that we had reached this stage of qualification and we were told to prepare. There has been no effort from the GFA to raise funds.”

Lai “and everyone else have done a good job in the past but we can’t rest on our laurels,” he said. “We no longer have faith in the decision-makers.”

Gary White, was the Guam coach in 2015 before leaving in 2016 to take over Chinese club Shanghai Shenxin, said the success came from administrators and players “pulling together.”

“I had support from the federation and the commitment from the players,” White said. “There is enough leadership both in the GFA and among the players that they will get back on track.”

For Lai, the last World Cup campaign was a special situation for the island of 165,000 people.

“We wanted to see were we stood, to measure our development 20 years after joining FIFA,” he said. “What we achieved was phenomenal but now we have no savings. Withdrawing was a hard decision but was really our only option — better to withdraw before the start than halfway through.”

SLLB emergency meeting today

Saipan Little League Baseball is calling all managers to attend an emergency meeting today at 5:30pm at the pavilion inside the Oleai Sports Complex.

“We will discuss the opening ceremony schedule, which is in the air because of the rainy weather. This is an important meeting,” SLLB president A.J. Murig said.

The SLLB was originally set to kick off its 2017 season on Feb. 9, but the opening was postponed to Feb. 17 due to incomplete documents of many teams. Twenty teams will be playing this season, but only nine have met the requirements.

For more information about SLLB, contact Murig at 783-2710. (PR)



VIBES

From Page 28

since arriving on Saipan more than two years ago. With the Ol’Aces 2’s defense focused on Schmidt that left the door for Macahito to show up in the finale. Duenas also benefitted from the Ol’Aces 2’s decision to stop Schmidt, as the former escaped with several shots underneath the basket and hit a couple of long jumpers.

Duenas’ long shot midway in the second period gave Vibes more breathing room after the Ol’Aces moved within 3, 22-25. It was followed by a triple from Schmidt and back-to-back baskets from Macahito, as Vibes ended the first half still on top, 32-25.

At the start of the second half, Macahito was held to 2 points, but Vibes had nothing to worry about, as Duenas was still at it, while Michael Mancao stepped up off the bench, scoring all his 8 markers in the third quarter. With Duenas finding a new ally in Mancao, Vibes regained the double-digit spread and posted its biggest lead, 53-38, entering the fourth canto.

With only 10 minutes left in the title game, the Ol’Aces 2 was pressed to make one final push, but it four field goals did not help the team’s comeback bid. Vibes, on the other hand, got three more field goals from Duenas early in the fourth canto to keep its safe distance.

Duenas led all scorers with

his 21 points, while Macahito added 16. Mancao and Schmidt combined for 16 markers. Jeffrey Castro paced the Ol’Aces 2 with his 17 points, but was held to 3 points in the entire second half. Jerold Castillo was the second best scorer for the Ol’Aces 2 with his 9 points, but he was silent in the second and third periods.

Vibes 64 – Duenas 21, Macahito 16, Mancao 8, Schmidt 8, Santos 3, Eubanks 2, Vivero 2, Gamab 2.

Ol’Aces 51 – Castro 17, Castillo 9, Siech 8, Sablan 6, Onopwy 5, Ngirarois 4, Paragados 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-13, 32-25, 53-38, 64-51.

2-2 draw against Paire in the first game of the division.

Kaden Church scored the pair of goals for Paire with his game-tying one coming in three minutes after Ian Karl Maniago handed Kanoa the 2-1 advantage. Merrick Toves hit the first goal for Kanoa in the seventh minute, while Maniago recorded the second in the 48th minute. Church’s other goal was registered in the 32nd minute.

With their first game resulting in a draw, both Paire and Kanoa will try to enter the win column this Saturday when they take on separate opponents. Kanoa will face

PIKABOO

From Page 28

up fighter, he likes to throw haymakers and slug it out. I am extremely excited about this because I am a stand up fighter as well so it’s definitely going to be an entertaining bout,” Alvarez said.

Sagurit’s back-to-back wins last year were all by knockouts in the first round. In Brace 42 in Canberra, he pummeled Byron Cowell with punches to get the TKO win at the 2:30 mark of the opening round. Then in Brace 45, which was also held in the Australian capital, it took Sagurit only 50 seconds to KO (punches) Richie Ivory. With his twin wins, Sagurit held a 3-1 record in 2016 with his

TanHoldings in the second game at 3pm, while Paire will play in the last tiff in Week 2 against Matansa at 4:30pm. In the curtain-raiser at 1:30pm, MP United will go for win No. 2 against Shirley’s.

Three matches will also take place at the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School in the opening week of the girls U15 division. In the first game, Paire will duel Kanoa, while TanHoldings will collide against MP United in the second match. Defending Spring champion Shirley’s will see action against Matansa in the last game.

other victory against Gustavo Falciole (TKO/punches) in Minotaur 3: Carnage in Victoria, Australia. Incidentally, the Aussie’s lone loss (unanimous decision) last year was in PXC (53) against Rex de Lara.

“He has heavy hands so I just need to keep my hands up. I have the height and reach advantage on him and the speed and as long as I use them I should be in the green,” Alvarez said.

“I’ve been training right after the holidays so I could start the year strong. I’m feeling good and ready and still got over a month to train some more. I’m very excited for this upcoming match as the preparations for it have been going really well,” he added.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	36	19	.655	—
Toronto	32	23	.582	4
New York	23	33	.411	13½
Philadelphia	21	34	.382	15
Brooklyn	9	46	.164	27
Southeast Division				
Washington	33	21	.611	—
Atlanta	32	23	.582	1½
Charlotte	24	31	.436	9½
Miami	24	32	.429	10
Orlando	21	36	.368	13½
Central Division				
Cleveland	37	16	.698	—
Indiana	29	26	.527	9
Chicago	26	29	.473	12
Detroit	26	30	.464	12½
Milwaukee	24	30	.444	13½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
San Antonio	42	13	.764	—
Houston	40	17	.702	3
Memphis	34	23	.596	9
Dallas	22	33	.400	20
New Orleans	22	34	.393	20½
Northwest Division				
Utah	34	22	.607	—
Oklahoma City	31	25	.554	3
Denver	25	30	.455	8½
Portland	23	32	.418	10½
Minnesota	21	34	.382	12½
Pacific Division				
Golden State	46	9	.836	—
L.A. Clippers	34	21	.618	12
Sacramento	23	32	.418	23
L.A. Lakers	19	37	.339	27½
Phoenix	17	39	.304	29½
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				

2016 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament Women’s Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



IT&E's Kye Tam pulls up for a short jumper in front of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan defenders during the third quarter of their title game in the women's division of the 2016 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



IT&E's Jan Travilla stops before popping for a shot against Fiesta's Angie Ito.



IT&E's Karleen Reyes, left, fakes off the defense of Fiesta's Chevy Kate Alipio before pulling up for a shot.



Fiesta's Paulynn Joyce, right, looks to kick the ball out to her teammate as she faces the defense of IT&E's Karleen Reyes.



Fiesta's Krizel Tuazon, left, tries to dribble past IT&E's Ya Han.



Fiesta's Chevy Kate Alipio drives against IT&E's Gillian Villagomez.



IT&E and Fiesta players exchange high-fives after their title game.



IT&E's Jenny Lee, left, fumbles, while Jennifer Villagomez loses her footing as she tries to steal the ball.



Nuggets tie
NBA mark with
24 3s in win
over Warriors

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports

Seung-hwan Oh
brings stability to
back of Cardinals'
bullpen

PAGE 25



28 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2017

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Vibes clinches U25 title



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Vibes' Matt Duenas goes up for a reverse layup against the Ol'Aces 2's Dean Blake during the second quarter of their title game in the TanHoldings holiday caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Vibes banked on a good start en route to a 64-51 title win over the Ol'Aces 2 in the U25 division of the 2016 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

A 23-13 scoring spurt in the first quarter gave Vibes the early momentum and though the Ol'Aces 2 threatened the eventual champion a bit in the second period, the Matt Duenas-anchored squad still posted a double-digit winning margin in the one-game finals.

Duenas and Franklin Macahito teamed up in giving Vibes a 10-point lead after the first 10 minutes of play with the latter drilling 11 points and the former adding 9. They com-



bined for all but one of Vibes' field goals in the opening canto. Douglas Schmidt nailed the other field goal for Vibes, canning a triple from the right key despite being hounded by Ol'Aces 2 defenders the moment he got the possession.

The Ol'Aces 2 picked its poison, deciding to shackle Schmidt, who has earned a reputation as a great scorer in the various leagues he has played

See VIBES on Page 26

Pikaboo faces Australian foe in PXC 56

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Trench Tech's Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez hopes to move closer to a title bout in the bantamweight division with a win against an Australian fighter in PXC 56 next month.

"Yes, I'm fully confirmed for PXC 56 which will be taking place in Guam on March 25. My opponent is Darwin Sagurit," Alvarez said.

Sagurit fights out of Australian Top Team based in Sydney, New South Wales and won his last two fights. The 32-year-old MMA fighter holds a 7-4 win-loss record with five of his victories coming by way of knockouts.

"This is a very important fight because one more after this one and I know I'll be the next person in line to fight for the 135-lb belt. I'll be going out there and giving it my very best to make sure I get the win," said Alvarez.

Guam's Trevin "5 Star" Jones holds PXC's bantamweight crown following his controversial split decision

victory over Kyle Aguon in PXC 55 late last year.

Alvarez, on the other hand, earned a convincing win over Miami's Emilio Urrutia in PXC 54 in July 2016. The CNMI fighter used a rear-naked choke to stop Urrutia at the 4:31 mark of the second

round. With the victory, Alvarez improved his record to 12-4, three of them via KOs, five off submissions, and four by decisions.

Against Sagurit, Alvarez is excited for the slam-bang affair.

"My opponent is a stand-

See PIKABOO on Page 26



PACIFIC XTREME COMBAT PHOTO

Trench Tech's Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez, left, connects on a left straight on Miami's Emilio Urrutia during their bantamweight bout in PXC 54 in Guam last year.

TanHoldings, MPU draw first blood

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Close games marked the opening week of the boys U14 division competition in the 2017 NMIFA Youth Spring League with two teams winning by only one point and two more settling for a draw last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

Defending Spring champion TanHoldings opened its bid for a third straight division crown with a 1-0 victory over Shirley's FC in the last game in Week 1. Ezekiel Canape scored the lone goal in the match in the 58th minute. Canape is one of the few holdovers from the team that swept the Spring and Fall seasons of last year's youth

league. With more newcomers suiting up for TanHoldings, players are still working

on their chemistry thus the low output on offense in their season debut.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

TanHoldings' Aloyzeus Angeles, right, dribbles past two Shirley's defenders during the first half of their boys U14 division game in the NMIFA youth spring league last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.



Shirley's, on the other hand, had a lot of returning players from last year's squad and made several attempts to score, but just could not find its target.

Meanwhile, in the second game in the division, MP United eked out a 2-1 win over Matansa FC.

The winning squad had several players recruited from the club's U12 crew that finished runner-up in the fall season of 2016 and a couple of holdovers from last year's U14 team. Rintaro Miyawaki was among the returnees on the team and he put MP United on the board

See TANHOLDINGS on Page 26